

VINDICATION
OF
Richard Coxeter
OF
BAMPTON

In the County of Oxon, Esq;
From the unjust Representations made
against him by Mr. John Frederick.

Wherein, the said Representations are set forth at
large, as they were copy'd from the Originals,
Written by Mr. Frederick's own Hand; and Mr.
Coxeter's Case by Way of Answer thereunto, as
the same was laid before the Rt. Honourable the
Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

With some Additions thereto for the better
Explaining some Parts thereof.

*His Mendacia sunt Operis Aurum: Fingunt quicquid
volunt, putantq; Palmam mentiri bene gloriosorem.*

————— If you think it fair,
Amongst known Cheats to play upon the Square,
You'll be undone —————
Nor can weak Truth your Reputation stain;
The KNAVES will all agree to call you Knave,
Wrong'd shall be live, insulted o'er, oppress'd,
Who dares be less a Villain than the rest.

E. of Rochester's Satyr against Mankind.

Printed for J. Johnson in Fleet Street, in the
Year MDCCLXIV.

Handwritten note in the right margin:
K. The Author of the above is a very good man, and a very good writer. He is a very good man, and a very good writer. He is a very good man, and a very good writer.



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P R E F A C E.

THE following Representations having been drawn up by Mr. Frederick and his Accomplices, with Design to blacken and abuse Mr. Coxeter, and presented to the Right Honourable the Earl of Abingdon, as Lord Lieutenant of the County of Oxon, in Order to prevail with him, to cause Mr. Coxeter to be removed out of the Commission of the Peace for that County, as a Person altogether unworthy (in their Opinion) of that Honour, or at least one who was very unacceptable to some of his Brethren in the Division where he Acted, because he would never run their Lengths in the Manner of their doing Justice in that Neighbourhood; and the said Representations being laid before the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor

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of Great Britain, His Lordship out of his great Goodness and Justice was pleased to send them to Mr. Coxeter, that he might see what Facts were Charged on him, and give an Answer to them in Writing; which Mr. Coxeter did in the following Sheets, styled his Case, Mr. Coxeter has since been let into a Secret relating to an Order that was obtained by Mr. Lenthal at the last Michaelmas Quarter Sessions at Oxon, which at the Time of his laying these Papers before the Lord Chancellor he was not acquainted with, this, upon the Publication of his Case, has occasioned some Alteration in his Defence from that which was presented to his Lordship; In those Papers he endeavoured to be as short as possible, that he might give his Lordship the less Trouble in perusing his Defence, but in that Part relating to the said Order of Sessions and some other Places, he has now thought fit to enlarge, that other Persons to whose Hands his Case may come, may the better understand and judge how he has been dealt withal by the Persons concerned in making these Representations. Their great Struggle against Mr. Coxeter, was to remove him out of the Commission of the Peace, an Honour which Mr. Coxeter never sought, or valued himself upon, and would more willingly have laid down than he took it up; the only Satisfaction he ever took in the Trouble which attended that Honour, was, that by moving in that Sphere, he obeyed the Commands of his great and noble Patron, His Grace the Duke of Shrewsbury,

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bury, at whose Request he was put into the Commission, and that he had frequent Opportunities of serving his Country in doing Acts of Justice and Mercy according to the best of his Judgment, and too often to endeavour to stem the Tide of Injustice and Oppression. The being free from the Care and Fatigue of this Power would have been very acceptable to Mr. Coxeter if he had been laid aside with Honour; or had he been a Person of Disloyal, Rebellious Principles, or otherwise Obnoxious to the Publick, then it would have had no other Effect upon him than is common with others upon the usual Changes of Persons and Politick Measures; but to be jalsly Accused, and Recorded as a Criminal, at the restless Importunities of some Persons Notorious for their own Injustice and Oppressions, some of them already known and others fit to be known in Westminster-Hall, is such a Consideration as obliged him to publish the following Case to Vindicate his own Reputation which is the only thing he values upon this Occasion, and that the World may judge of the Treatment he has met with among some of his implacably turbulent Neighbours. He cannot in the least impute any Blame to either of the noble Persons before mentioned upon this Occasion; for he doth acknowledge, that as to the first of these he might take it for granted, that the Representations made to him (against a Person unknown to him, and Signed by some Gentlemen in whose Integrity perhaps he had good Confidence)

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dence) were true; especially when the same Representations afterwards came back'd in one particular Instance with two successive Orders of the Court of Quarter Sessions, particularly the last of those, for no doubt the surreptitious manner of obtaining that last Order was not discovered to his Lordship when the said Order was presented to him, with a Request to lay the same before the Lord Chancellor, nor can it be imagined, but that the Lord Chancellor must also give Credit to a Record made by the Court of Quarter Sessions as to the united Voice of a County; and therefore when a Complaint of such a Nature came so supported, far be it from Mr. Coxeter to complain of any Hardship from either of those great and worthy Men (who, had they known the Bottom of this Practice would have rejected the Request of Mr. Coxeter's Adversaries with Indignation) but he hopes he shall not Sin against Justice or the Respect and Honour he is always desirous to pay to those great and worthy Persons, if he lays open the sinister and unworthy Methods which his Enemies have made use of to impose upon them, as well as to oppress and sink Mr. Coxeter's Character and Reputation in the World, for as a late Author observes there is something very terrible in unjustly attacking Men in a way that may Prejudice their Honour or Fortune, and for that Reason only the following Case is made Publick, that he may as far as he is able vindicate himself from the virulent Aspersions and unjust Calumnies that have

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have been thrown on him from the Dirty Hands and False Tongues of his Accusers, some of whom must in every good Man's Opinion appear to be Persons of most Infamous Characters and Behaviour, when their Actions shall come to be manifested in their genuine Colours, were they as well known at a Distance, as they are at Home, Mr. Coxeter would despise their Calumnies and laugh at their impotent Malice, for 'tis not in their Power to make their Slanders against him be credited in their own Neighbourhood; If Mr. Coxeter had their good Word there, he would have great Reason to say, with the Philosopher, What have I done that these Men should speak well of me? Mr. Coxeter has good cause to believe that his Enemies in all Companies, especially among the Gentlemen in Commission of the Peace for the County of Oxon, have endeavoured to represent him in their Discourses in the same Manner they have done in their Representations, and tho' he doubts not but their Artifices have been seen through by some who have had any knowledge of the Reporters, yet they may have found some small Credit with others, especially with those very few who concurred with them against Mr. Coxeter, who, (had they known the real Truth) would scarce have stained their own Characters by hearing with such Company, or have given the least Countenance to such unwarrantable Proceedings, for their better Information therefore, as well as for the Reasons beforementioned, the whole Case

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is now truly Stated and made Publick with
such Attestations as were proper to support it;
In which Mr. Coxeter has omitted nothing
but the putting of Two Names at Length
mentioned in Mr. Frederick's Representati-
on, which he conceived to be no ways mate-
rial to be known, unless it were to gratify his
Spleen.



true Representation of the Unjustifiable Proceedings of Mr. Richard Coxeter of Bampton, against Mr. John Frederick of the same, humbly offered to the Consideration of the Right Honourable Montague Earl of Abingdon Lord Lieutenant of the County of Oxon.

May it please Your Lordship,

MR. Frederick Dining with Francis Wroughton, Esq; at Caswell, on the Eighteenth Day of November, in Company with Philip Wenman, Esq; John Lenthal, Esq; Captain William Somers, and several other Gentlemen, Dinner being over, the whole Company retired into another Room, to take a Glass of Wine; and after a little Time one George Fenwick a Journey-man Apothecary, came into the Room, unask'd, and unexpected by Mr. Wroughton; The Company having heard the Character of the Man, were uneasy at his being there; and gave him several modest Hints to be gone; but he taking no Notice of it, began to abuse several Gentlemen, but especially Mr. Frederick; often calling him Rogue, Rascal, and Scoundrel, several times Challenging Mr. Frederick to meet him the next Morning and Fight him, appointing the Place. Mr. Frederick taking little Notice of him; At length Fenwick growing very Troublesome, Mr. Wenman,

Wenman, at the Request of the Company, turned him out of the Room, and shut the Door against him; which *Fenwick* burst open again, and coming behind Mr. *Frederick's* Chair, abused him as before, telling Mr. *Frederick* he would fight him there presently; which obliged Mr. *Frederick* to rise from his Chair and defend himself; Mr. *Frederick* upon this desiring a Warrant from Mr. *Lenthal*, in Order to bring *Fenwick* to Justice and Punishment, for his Insult and Abuse, It was accordingly Granted, and *Fenwick* taken into Custody the next Morning, and by the Constable carried to Mr. *Dewe*, One of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace; but while the Constable went to call Mr. *Frederick* and his Witnesses, who were hard by; *Fenwick* under pretence to Mr. *Dewe* of finding Sureties, slipped away from Mr. *Dewe's* to the House of Mr. *Coxeter*, where he was Protected by Mr. *Coxeter* and his Family, altho' the Constable went twice to Mr. *Coxeter's* and demanded his Prisoner, Accompanied the last Time with a Servant of Mr. *Dewe's*, who by his Master's Order did deliver a Message to this Effect, that he, meaning Mr. *Coxeter* would let the Prisoner come along with the Constable; but instead of complying therewith, Mr. *Coxeter*, his Wife and others of his Family did very much Abuse the Constable, by calling him Impudent and Impertinent Rascal, and hurrying *Fenwick* to Bed, commanding the Constable to get out of his House. All which will appear more a large by the Constable's Information upon Oath, at the Return of his Warrant which is hereunto annexed, by Reason of which Usage Mr. *Frederick* is not only deprived of Common Justice against *Fenwick*, by Mr. *Coxeter*, but Mr. *Coxeter* has thereby found Means to prosecute a former Prejudice he had taken

turned against Mr. *Frederick*, viz. by suffering
Fenwick whilst protested by him to swear to a
 long Information of Assault and Battery, Rob-
 ery, &c. against Mr. *Frederick*, well knowing
 that *Fenwick*'s Information must be Malicious,
 and on purpose to screen himself from the War-
 rant Mr. *Frederick* had against him, notwithstan-
 ding which the next Morning Mr. *Coxeter* sent
 a Special Warrant, and caused Mr. *Frederick* to
 appear before him that Evening, where tho' Mr.
Frederick brought with him *Philip Wenman* and
Francis Wroughton, Esqrs. to acquaint Mr. *Coxeter*
 with the whole Truth of the Transaction, yet
 Mr. *Coxeter* would not hear any thing they had
 to say, but Ordered the Constable to carry Mr.
Frederick to Goal the next Morning, if he did
 not forthwith find Sureties; to prevent which
 Mr. *Frederick* has been forced to enter into a
 Recognizance of 200 l. Penalty, whereby he is
 obliged to appear at the next Assizes or gene-
 ral Goal Delivery at *Oxon*. And to add to the
 Treatment of Mr. *Frederick*, Mr. *Coxeter* did
 offer one *J— R—* without any Reprimand,
 Abuse and Challenge Mr. *Frederick*, saying
 these or the like Words, *You are a Rogue, or, Ras-*
cal, I am as good a Man as Jack Frederick, and
we meet you any where, This *J— R—* was
 totally turned out of Her Majesty's Revenue of
 Excise, upon a Conviction of Felony, for stealing
 a Silver Hilted Sword from one Mr. *S—*
 and is now bound over to his good Behaviour
 for publickly Abusing *Edward Hungerford* Esq;
 one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace.
 and has been, and now is entertained with his
 family by Mr. *Coxeter* ever since his Discharge,
 and Mr. *Coxeter*'s arbitrary and partial Way
 of Proceedings will further appear by what is
 annexed. We whose Names are hereunto Sub-
 scribed

scribed, do attest the above Representation to be true in every Particular.

There was written in the
Margin of this Representation thus, viz. Philip Wenman.
Francis Wroughton
William Sommers.

The Part of this Representation relating to the Abuse of Mr. Frederick by Fenwick (being present) we know to be True in every Particular, and believe the other having often heard it related by the Gentlemen there present.

J. Lenthal.

J. Elyns.

Seymour Wroughton

Charles Eden.

Oxon ff. *The Information of Richard Avenel Tythingman of the Liberties of Witney in the said County, taken upon Oath the 21st Day of November 1712, before John Lenthal, Esq; One of Her Majesty's Justices of Peace for the said County.*

WHO saith, That he this Informant on the 19th Day of this Instant November about Eight a Clock in the Morning of the same Day, having received a Warrant under the Hand and Seal of John Lenthal aforesaid, directed to the Constables and Tythingmen of Witney aforesaid, Commanding them and every of them to bring before him the said John Lenthal, or some other Justice of the Peace for the said County, George Fenwick of Witney aforesaid, Apothecary, to Answer a Complaint made against him the said Fenwick, touching Abuses and an Assault offered to and made upon John Frederick of Bampton in the County of Oxon aforesaid, Esq; in the Presence of several Gentlemen, he this

Informant

Informant pursuant to the said Warrant, did forthwith go to the Lodging of the said *Fenwick*, whom he found in Bed, and served him the said *Fenwick* with the Warrant, which having read to him, he the said *Fenwick* desired till Two a Clock in the Afternoon to get Sureties as was required by the said Warrant, and promised to meet this Informant at the *White Hart* in *Bampton* aforesaid, at that time in Order to go before some Justice of Peace, as he this Informant should direct; And accordingly this Informant went to *Bampton* aforesaid and carried his Warrant to Mr. *Dewe*, desiring to know what time he should be at Leasure, who answered, he should be at Home all that Evening, upon which, this Informant went to Mr. *Frederick*, and according to the Directions of this Informant's Warrant, gave the said Mr. *Frederick* notice to attend with his Witnesses between four and Five of the Clock, at Mr. *Dewe*'s house, and then according to Appointment went to the *White Hart* aforesaid to meet his Prisoner, and was told his Horse was there, but that the said Prisoner, *Fenwick*, was gone down to Mr. *Coxeter*'s, to which Place this Informant followed and found him there, and required the said *Fenwick* to go with this Informant before Mr. *Dewe*, but the said Mr. *Coxeter* with his Wife coming out, demanded this Informant's Warrant, who several Times refused the same, telling the said Mr. *Coxeter*, that he had already shewed the Warrant to Mr. *Dewe*, and had appointed the Hearing there at the Time aforesaid, upon which Mr. *Coxeter* called this Informant Impudent Rascal, and did in a scurrilous Manner reflect upon and abuse Mr. *Frederick*, but upon Mr. *Coxeter* his further pressing and promising to return the Warrant again, he this Informant

did produce the same, which the said Mr. Coxeter read, and then told this Informant, that he could refuse to give back the Warrant, and hear the Matter himself, but this Informant saying, that he hoped the said Mr. Coxeter would not be worse than his Word, the Warrant was restored, and the Prisoner *Fenwick* went with this Informant to Mr. *Dewe's* House, where he left the said Prisoner, and went to call the Complainant with the other Gentlemen his Witnesses, and returning as soon as possible to Mr. *Dewe's*, the said Mr. *Dewe* told this Informant that the Prisoner was gone to Mr. *Coxeter's* where he might find him, whereupon this Informant went a Second Time to Mr. *Coxeter's* House after the Prisoner, and was told by a Servant at the Door that he was in the Garden, but upon this Informant his going into the House, Mrs. *Coxeter* the Wife of Mr. *Coxeter*, and others of the Family denied the Prisoner's being there, and seemed under a Concern, when they found what the Servant had told this Informant as aforesaid, however upon this Informant his being very urgent the Prisoner *Fenwick* was after some time produced, but refused then to go with this Informant, pretending he was excused by Mr. *Dewe* till the Morrow Twelve a Clock, and so retired. The aforesaid Mrs. *Coxeter* at the same Time calling this Informant Rascal, and telling him that the Prisoner should not go with him. And he this Informant further saith, that being very much vexed with this evil Treatment, he went back to Mr. *Dewe's*, where he found the Complainant with his Witnesses, the other Gentlemen waiting for the Prisoner, and did then and there relate the whole Matter aforesaid: And being pressed to go the Third Time for his Prisoner to the said Mr. *Coxeter's*, he this Informant

Mr. Coxeter told the Company it was never the near-
 or he was sure they, meaning Mr. Coxeter's Fa-
 mily, would not suffer him, the said Fenwick to
 come with him, upon which Mr. Dewe seeming
 disturbed, called a Servant and sent him with
 this Informant with a Message, desiring Mr.
 Coxeter to let the Prisoner come to his House
 or that the Gentlemen waited there. And this
 Informant further saith, That upon his coming
 the Third Time to the House of Mr. Coxeter
 foresaid, together with Mr. Dewe his Servant,
 the this Informant saw and called to the said
 Fenwick, who perceiving this Informant present-
 slipped aside, and the said Mr. Coxeter's Fa-
 mily flocking about this Informant told him the
 Prisoner was in Bed, and having kept this Infor-
 mant a considerable Time in Talk, afterwards
 the Eldest Son of Mr. Coxeter conducted this
 Informant up Stairs and shewed him the Priso-
 ner in Bed, but this Informant still alledging
 that he saw him as before, the aforesaid Mrs.
 Coxeter calling this Informant Rascal, &c. told
 him he should not have the Prisoner, and Mr.
 Coxeter told this Informant that he was an Im-
 pertinent Rascal, and bid him get out of his
 House, whereupon this Informant was obliged
 to leave his Prisoner behind and return to his
 own Home.

Fur. Cor.

J. Lenibal.

Richard Avenell.

About Five Years ago a Servant of Mr. Cox-
 eter's being Delivered of a Bastard Child, and
 charging the Son of one Mathews an Inn-keeper
 of Bampton to be the Father, who absconding on
 that Account, and the Child likely to be Charg-
 able to the Parish, Mr. Coxeter, who then, or not
 long before usually acted as an Attorney, ha-
 ving taken a Prejudice against Mathews for

some Disrespect he had shewn him, Mr. Coxeter
 persuaded the Parishoners that *Mathews* the Re-
 puted Grandfather was obliged to maintain the
 Child, which *Mathews* refusing, Mr. Coxeter told
 them he had found out an Expedient which
 would oblige *Mathews* to comply with their De-
 mands, and that was, by threatening to have his
 House Suppressed, and on this Pretence procu-
 red the Hands of most of the Parishoners to a
 Paper drawn up by himself against *Mathews*,
 which being thought too severe, several of them
 at first refused to Sign, but on his Promise to
 make no further use of it than only to terrify
Mathews, and by that means oblige him to pro-
 duce his Son or keep the Child, and by reading
 to some less than was really contained in the
 Paper, he prevailed with most of them; but
 having obtained their Hands, contrary to his
 Promise and their Design, and without giving
Mathews any Notice whereby he might have
 been enabled to have made his Defence, Mr.
 Coxeter went privately to the Sessions, and by
 Virtue of that Paper and other false and mali-
 cious Suggestions of his own, procured an Or-
 der of Court for Suppressing the House of
Mathews, but at this the Parishoners were very
 much surprized, finding themselves imposed upon
 in this Manner, and a Neighbour (who by his
 own Industry had bred up a numerous Family)
 Ruined, contrary to any Design of theirs, unani-
 mously Signed another Paper in favour of *Ma-*
thews, and he applying to the next Quarter
 Sessions, and producing his Paper and setting
 forth the indirect Practices by which Mr. Cox-
 eter had procured the other, and Mr. Coxeter
 who was then present, not being able to prove
Mathews Guilty of any Dishonesty, or suffering
 any Disorders in his House he was Restored,

and

and Mr. *Coxeter's* Proceedings severely Censured by the Bench. Now Mr. *Coxeter* applying himself to Mr. *Frederick* (with whom at that Time he had a very fair Correspondence) desired him to Sign the afore first mentioned Paper, who upon reading the same refused it, telling Mr. *Coxeter*, there were several Allegations in the same which he knew to be notoriously False, and knowing the Innocency of *Mathews*, did out of Compassion to him and his poor Family appear afterwards in *Mathews's* Behalf, which was look'd upon by Mr. *Coxeter* as a great Affront, and Grounds sufficient for an open Quarrel, and Mr. *Coxeter* has ever since that Time very Industriously taken all occasions to shew his Inveteracy and Malice to Mr. *Frederick*, by promoting and carrying on several Vexatious and Litigious Suits against him, and hath always acted as a Justice of the Peace, in relation to him, with the greatest Prejudice and Partiality, which will plainly appear by the Representations annexed, and notwithstanding Mr. *Coxeter's* severe Prosecution of *Mathews*, Mr. *Coxeter* contrary to his Promise to several of the Chief of the Parish, that the Whore his Servant should be forth-coming, and be punished according to Law; yet as soon as she was able, she was privately conveyed out of Mr. *Coxeter's* House to avoid being sent to *Bridewel*, to the great Dis-satisfaction of the Neighbours, and which no one can suppose could be done without his Knowledge, after so firm a Promise to them she should be secured.

About a Year ago Mr. *Frederick* having Con-victed one *Minchin* a notorious Poacher, for keeping a Greyhound and killing a Hare, a Warrant was granted by Mr. *Lenthall* to convene *Minchin* according to the late Act of Parliament

and delivered to the Constable of *Bampton*, which *Minchin* having Notice of Absconded for Seven or Eight Days, but finding the Prosecution would not be dropped, he applied himself to Mr. *Coxeter*, who in Order to Screen the Offender and frustrate the late Act, took *Minchin's* own Confession before him for a Conviction, and pretended to have punished him according to the Act of the Fifth Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, tho' at the same Time he was acquainted by Mr. *Dewe* (who refused to act with him in it) that *Minchin* was already Convict by Mr. *Lenthal*, and that Mr. *Lenthal's* Warrant had been out several Days for apprehending *Minchin*, Mr. *Lenthal* hearing what Mr. *Coxeter* had done, wrote him a Letter to this Effect, That *Minchin* had been Convict before him, and that he expected to determine the Matter, who in Answer told Mr. *Lenthal*, that he knew the Malice and Partialty of his Informer, (meaning Mr. *Frederick*) which would occasion him to do what he could for the Offender, or Words to that Effect; Mr. *Lenthal* upon this let it rest till he had the Opinion of several Justices, and at the next Quarter Sessions the Bench upon hearing the Story were all of Opinion that Mr. *Lenthal* was ill used, and that Mr. *Coxeter* had acted Illegally, and could by no means Justify his Proceedings, upon which Mr. *Lenthal* ordered the Constable to obey his Warrant, and *Minchin* was brought before him, and upon his Non-payment of the Penalty Mr. *Lenthal* sent a Warrant to Levy the same as the Act in that Case directs, but *Minchin* moving his Goods and absconding himself no Distress could be made, soon after the Wife of the said *Minchin* came to Mr. *Frederick* with Five Pounds who told her that upon Account of their Poverty and her Husband's promising not to offend again,

again, he would give them his Fifty Shillings as Informer; and Thirty Shillings more he would endeavour they should have as Poor of the Parish (which they had) and had her carry the other Twenty Shillings to the Constable to dispose of as he should be directed, that her Husband might remember it and leave off his idle Course of Life; which Twenty Shillings was given to Twenty poor Persons: And both *Minchin* his Wife and one *Sandelands* his Father-in-law came to Mr. *Frederick* and thanked him for the Favour he had shewn them, and that now *Minchin* followed his Trade, and that Mr. *Frederick* had been the Saving of the Family, since which *Minchin* by the Persuasion and Advice of Mr. *Coxeter*, as there is good Reason to suppose from the above Relation, has brought his Action against *Mathews* the Constable for the Twenty Shillings, and has put *Mathews* to a very great Charge and Expence in Defending the Action, Feeing Counsel, &c. for the Tryal at the last Assizes held at *Oxon*, after all which, Mr. *Coxeter*, or *Minchin* by his Directions withdrew the Record, and still threatneth to put *Mathews* the Constable to further Charges, by Trying it at the next Assizes. And as a further Instance of Mr. *Coxeter*'s indirect Practices since he has been a Justice of the Peace, a Country-man one Day meeting another Justice who was going of the Bench, asked him whether Mr. *Coxeter* was there, who answered no; at which the Man seemed under a Surprise, and told the Justice that he was sure Mr. *Coxeter* ought to have been there, for that he had given him his Fee that Morning, and that Mr. *Coxeter* had promised to be there and do him all the Service he could.

The Truth of all these Representations will be Attested upon Oath by unexceptionable Witnesses if required, and it is humbly Requested of Your Lordship, if Mr. Coxeter should deny the Truth of any of these Representations, that Mr. Frederick may meet Mr. Coxeter before any one Your Lordship shall appoint, to make good all his Allegations.

Mr. Coxeter's CASE,

Humbly offered to the Consideration of the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor of Great-Britain, in Answer to the foregoing Representations.

May it please Your Lordship,

IT is with the highest Sense of Duty and Gratitude, for the Justice Your Lordship has done Mr. Coxeter, in communicating to him the Accusations laid to his Charge by Mr. Frederick, that he now Addresses Your Lordship, and by Way of Answer to the said Representations, gives Your Lordship a true Narrative of the Grounds, Rise, and Progress of the late unhappy Differences that have happened in his Neighbourhood. In Order to which, he humbly Conceives it Necessary, to begin with the Original Causes that have given Birth to these Misunderstandings, and which from small Beginnings have at last run into such Violence on the Part of Mr. Coxeter's Adversaries. And here (were it possible) Mr. Coxeter would (even for his Enemies

ies sakes) rather cover than expose some of
 their Actions, but hopes Your Lordship will ex-
 cuse him, when he lays open a real Truth in
 Vindication of his Innocence, Justice and Repu-
 tation, rather than to take other Mens Crimes
 on himself, and sink under the Load of Falsehood
 and Oppression. Mr. Coxeter humbly hopes he
 may also be Pardoned, if he does not follow
 Mr. Frederick in the Method and Order of his
 Representations, because he conceives it may the
 better give Light to the whole Matter, if he
 proceeds in this Narrative in the same Order,
 as the Facts themselves were done in time, and
 with as much Brevity as the Nature of the Case
 will bear.

I. Mr. Lenthal being seized of an
 Estate at Telford, which Time out
 of Mind has been Taxed to the Poor
 of Bampton, and pretending himself
 aggrieved for being Taxed there at
 all; about Michaelmas 1707, obtained
 an Order at the Quarter Sessions,
 that the Matter should be Examined

*The First
 Grounds of
 Mr. Len-
 thal's pre-
 judice a-
 gainst Mr.
 Coxeter.*

Three Justices, who were to Report it to
 the Court the next Sessions, by the particular
 Command of his Grace the Duke of Shrewsbury
 (One of the Lords of the Manner of Bampton).
 Mr. Coxeter attended that Examination on be-
 half of the Parish of Bampton, by whose Means
 that Examination (with some Difficulty) was
 fairly carryed on, but Mr. Lenthal was much
 displeased at, and huffed Mr. Coxeter, though
 at the End upon finding what Proofs were made,
 he came to an Agreement with Bampton, and
 still Taxed with them with some small Abate-
 ment.

II. The 28th of December 1707, Mr. Coxeter's
 Cook-maid was Delivered of a Bastard Child, sworn

to be Begotten by *John* the Son of *Rowland Mathews* Victualer in *Bampton*. The 29th Mr. *Coxeter* hearing that *Mathews* had sent away his Son, sent to *Mathews* to desire to speak with him, who refusing to come, Mr. *Coxeter* went to his House with the Officers of the Parish, and meeting him in the Street, asked him where his Son was, who answered, his Son should not come back to marry a Whore; Mr. *Coxeter* replied, that his Son had made her so, and since he had sent his Son away, if he did not discharge the Parish of the Bastard, or produce his Son, Mr. *Coxeter* would endeavour, that he should no longer keep a Publick House there, which had been before so very Lewd and Disorderly, *Mathews* answered, " I don't value you, and bad " Mr. *Coxeter* do his Worst, and said he should " find as good Friends to support him, as Mr. " *Coxeter* - could to suppress him," or to that Effect; before this Mr. *Coxeter* never had any Quarrel with, or Prejudice against *Mathews* (as is falsely represented) but the Bastard falling in his House, he esteemed himself under the greater Obligation to have the Parish indemnified, and therefore gave *Mathews* Notice to defend himself, for that he would move the next Sessions to suppress him. Two Days before the Sessions *Mathews* came to beg Mr. *Coxeter*'s Pardon for his Insolent Language, who readily forgave the private Affront done to himself, but could not the Publick Injury to the Parish, and expected *Mathews* should produce his Son, or give his own Security, both which *Mathews* refused, the next Sessions Mr. *Coxeter* moved the Court on the following Certificate, that *Mathews* House might be suppressed, viz.

We the Inhabitants and Parishoners of *Bampton* in the County of *Oxon*, whose Names are hereunto

hereunto subscribed, do hereby certify whom it
 may concern, That *Rowland Mathews* of *Bampton*
 aforesaid, Barber, hath for several Years last
 past, kept an Ale-House in *Bampton*; And that du-
 ring the Time of his keeping the said Ale-House,
 his Daughter and a Servant-maid of the said
Mathews's, were each of them Delivered of a
 Bastard Child, who both accused the Apprentice
 of the said *Rowland Mathews* to be the Father of
 the said Bastard Children. And that since that
 Time, One or Two other Maid Servants of the
 said *Rowland Mathews* have gone away from their
 said Service big with Child. And that about
 two Months since, one *Elizabeth Tipp*, who was
 also Servant in the said *Mathews's* House was
 delivered of a Bastard Child; and that on the
 8th Day of *December* last, one *Mary Adams* of
Bampton, was also Delivered of another Bastard
 Child, and that *John Mathews* the Son and Ap-
 prentice of the said *Rowland Mathews* is the re-
 puted Father of both the said last mentioned
 Bastard Children, which said *John Mathews* has
 behaved himself very Lewdly and Dissolutely, fre-
 quently lying out Nights and Demeaning him-
 self in a very Scandalous and Irreligious Man-
 ner, by the Remissness or Connivance of his Fa-
 ther the said *Rowland Mathews*, as we conceive,
 by which lewd and scandalous doings, and disor-
 derly Lives of the said *Mathews's* Family, not only
 a very evil Example is given in the Neighbour-
 hood, but also the Inhabitants of the said Town
 are put to great Charges to maintain the Bastards
 gotten, the said *Rowland Mathews* having vo-
 untarily sent away his Son the said *John Ma-*
thews, on purpose to avoid keeping the said Ba-
 stard Children, and to prevent the Justice of
 the Law. And we do hereby further Certify,
 that we have been informed, and do believe the
 said

said Rowland Mathews doth Trim, or suffer his Son and Apprentice to Trim and use the Trade of a Barbar, and also sell Ale to his Customers upon the Lord's Day, and in the Time of Divine Service. In Witness whereof, we have hereunto set our Hands the 12th Day of January Anno Domini 1707.

This Certificate was subscribed as follows.

I know nothing of the last Clause, but all the former I believe to be exactly True.

Tho. Snell.

The Matter of this Certificate relating to the Two first and Two last Bastard Children, I believe to be True.

Jo. Dewe.

Tho. Horde.

*John Sandelands,
Edward Kendall,
Church Wardens.*

*Bat. Collingwood,
Charles Knipe,
Overseers of the Poor*

Hen. Church.

Upon this Certificate the following Order was made, viz.

Oxon ff. *Sessio Epiphania Domini Annæ Regiæ
Domine nostræ Annæ, nunc Regiæ
Magna Britaniæ, &c. sexto.*

WHereas it appears to this Court, by Certificate under the Hands of several of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Bampton in this County, that Rowland Mathews of Bampton aforesaid, Barbar, doth keep a very lewd scandalous and disorderly Ale-House, and doth permit, and suffer several evil Practices and wicked Actions to be committed therein. It is therefore Ordered by the Court, That the said Rowland Mathews be Suppressed from keeping any longer an Ale-House, or Victualing-House, &c.

from selling any Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, only this Court doth give Leave and Licence to the said Rowland Mathews, till the last Day of February next, to sell and dispose of the Liquors now in his House.

per Cur. Clerk.

It is pretty Evident upon the Face of this Order, that the Representation which says that Mr. Coxeter went privately to the Sessions, without giving any Notice to Mathews, must be false; for the Time allowed him to dispose of the Liquors then in his House, was obtained at the earnest Request of Mr. Warren, whom Mathews retained to defend Mr. Coxeter's Motion. Mathews never obeyed the Order, but (being encouraged by Mr. Frederick in Opposition to the Court) continued to sell Ale, as well after his Time was expired as before. And while Mr. Coxeter was on a Journey from Home, Mathews procured a Certificate to be Signed in his Favour, by some few of Bampton, and more of other Places, whereby it was certified among other Things, that he had given Satisfaction to the Parish, and that they desired he might be re-established, or to that Purpose, and also got an Act of Vestry made by a small Party, encouraged thereto by Mr. Frederick, signifying the Satisfaction that was agreed to be accepted, viz. One Shilling *per Week* for One Year only, towards the Child's maintenance, which without the Consent of the Officers was entered in the Book of Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, but many of the Vestry went away and protested against making and entring such Agreement; but Mr. Frederick's Party then present entered it. At Mr. Coxeter's Return, he being told of these Practices, procured another Certificate Signed by many of the Parishioners, and

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even by some of those who had Signed *Mathews's* Certificate, shewing this Fraud and Imposition on the Parish, which Certificate was as follows, viz.

Whereas by an Order made at the general Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden for the County of *Oxon*, after the *Epiphany* last past, for the Reasons therein contained, it was Ordered by the said Court, That *Rowland Mathews* of *Bampton* in the said County of *Oxon*, Barber, should be Suppressed from keeping any longer an Ale-House, or Victualing House, with Licence only to sell and dispose of the Liquors then in his House, till the last Day of *February* last. And whereas it hath been since pretended to be certified to the Court of Sessions, by some few of the Inhabitants of *Bampton* aforesaid, That the said *Rowland Mathews* hath since given Satisfaction to the said Parish, and promised to keep a more Orderly House for the future, and that the said *Rowland Mathews* is a very fit Person to keep a Publick House, and they therefore prayed, that he might be again restored to his former Business of Ale Selling. Now we whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, being Inhabitants of the Parish of *Bampton* aforesaid, and who do pay to the Relief of the Poor, and other Taxes in the said Parish, do hereby certify, that the first Certificate concerning the said *Rowland Mathews* and his Family's Disorderliness was very true, and that notwithstanding the Order of Sessions above mentioned for his Suppression, he the said *Rowland Mathews* did continue to Prew and Sell Ale, not only during the interval between the said Sessions of *Epiphany*, and the said last Day of *February* last, but also after that Time, untill the *Easter* Sessions last past. And that he did then, and still does entertain any loose and disorderly

orderly Persons (Inhabitants of *Bampton* as well
 as others) Tippling in his House, some of whom,
 are not able to maintain their Families, but are
 Chargeable to the said Parish, or who are likely
 to become Chargeable, permitting the Inhabitants
 of *Bampton* aforesaid, as well as Strangers to sit
 and Tittle in his said House to Excess, and
 contrary to Law. And we do hereby further
 Certify, that very few of the Persons, who
 subscribed the aforesaid Certificate in Behalf of
 the said *Rowland Mathews*, were present at any
 Meeting of the Parishioners, when any pretended
 Satisfaction was said to be given to the Parish,
 by the said *Rowland Mathews*, or were Privy to
 any Satisfaction therein pretended to be given
 to the said Parish as we believe. And that se-
 veral of the Substantial Persons then present,
 refused to subscribe the said Certificate as ha-
 ving no Satisfaction given, and that such others
 as did afterwards subscribe the said Certificate,
 were prevailed on by the Importunity of the
 said *Rowland Mathews*, by his Abusing them with
 a false Report, that all the Parish had agreed
 thereto, and that he the said *Rowland Mathews*,
 was to keep the Bastard Child, of which his Son
 was the Father, whereas in Truth no such Agree-
 ment was made. And we do further certify,
 that we have been informed, and do believe,
 that the said *Rowland Mathews* acknowledged,
 that he had sent away his Lewd Son *John Ma-*
thews, to prevent his giving Security for the
 keeping of the said Bastard, and that the said *Row-*
land Mathews still endeavours to abuse the Pa-
 rish of *Bampton* aforesaid, instead of giving them
 Satisfaction for the Charges brought on them
 by the said Child, by concealing his Son, for
 that we are well informed he knows where his
 said Son now is, but refuseth to discover him.

that Security might be given by him to the said Parish. Witness our Hands the Twentieth Day of April, Anno Domini, 1708.

William Skinner.

Signed [S] *John Clarke.*

*John Sandelands,
Edward Kendal,
Church Wardens.*

*Bar. Collingwood, Jun. }
Overseer of the Poor. }*

Francis Carter.

John Pawling, Senior.

John Carter.

Henry Church.

Tho. Haskins.

Alexander Horne, Sen.

Fetbro Bunce.

Alexander Horne, Junior.

Bartho. Collingwood, Sen.

William Seary.

John Carpenter.

Benjamin Collingwood.

William Williams.

The Mark [S] of *Sylvanus Broadwater.*

Thomas Carpenter.

The Mark of [Z] *Benj. Sharpe.*

Moses Heath.

William Simes.

Henry Green.

Henry Symphon.

I am not willing that any of the Charge of maintaining *Mathew's* Bastard should be born by the Parish of *Bampton*, and do desire that *Rowland Mathew's* Ale House may be Suppressed, if he will not Secure the Parish from the Charge thereof.

Mathew Green.

John Pawling, Junior.

Signed [F] *Stephen Wasth.*

Signed [*] *William Carter.*

Signed [†] *John Elsham.*

John Rogers.

John Nabbs.

We whose Names are here under Written, having Signed a Certificate before the last Sessions, in favour of the aforesaid *Rowland Mathews*, upon his false Pretence and Report, that he had given Satisfaction to the Parish of *Bampton*, and that he would keep his Son's Bastard Child, do hereby certify

the said
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certify, that no such Satisfaction is given by
him to the said Parish. And therefore we do
hereby retract our said former Subscription and
Certificate, and do desire, that unless the said
Rowland Mathews doth give full Satisfaction to
the said Parish, by keeping of the said Child,
and by giving Security to indemnify the said
Parish of *Bampton* from the same, he may be
suppressed from keeping an Ale-House any
longer in the said Parish, thereby to prevent
all future Mischiefs, that we have just Reason
to believe may fall on our said Parish from so
disorderly an House. Witness our Hands the
Thirtieth Day of *April*, Anno Domini 1708.

Tho. Horden

Charles Knipe.

Humphrey Carter.

William Carter.

John Carter.

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Upon producing *Mathews's* said Certificate at
the Sessions, *Mathews* moved to be Re-established,
which being Opposed for very good Reasons
offered to the Court, an Order was made, where-
by it was referred to the Examination of Three
Neighbouring Justices, (*viz.*) Mr. *Goodenough*,
Mr. *Lentbal*, and Mr. *Jordan*, who were to Re-
port the Matter at the next Sessions, at which
Examination the Matter of the Complaint was
fully proved against *Mathews* and his Family,
and tho' some Witnesses were Examined to his
Reputation and good Orders; yet that was only
a Negative Evidence as to the Facts charged on
him, and amounted to no more, than that the
Witnesses thought he kept as good Orders as
other Publick Houses in *Bampton*. Mr. *Lentbal* in
particular was very Partial in this Examination,
and very much Discountenanced the Witnesses a-
gainst *Mathews*, but the Proofs being so plain a-
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gainst him, that even his Friends saw he must have been Suppressed, an Accommodation was proposed, and 'twas offered, that if he might be Re-established, he should pay One Shilling per Week, towards the Maintenance of his Son's Bastard Child for the First Year, and keep the Child wholly afterwards, and Mr. *Frederick* being present, engaged his Word for the First Year's Payment. The Prosecution being intended by Mr. *Coxeter* and his Neighbours, only to save the Parish of *Bampton* Harmless, and to Reform, not to Ruin *Mathews*, this Proposal was consented to on Condition, that the Report should be made of the Real Matters of Fact, as the Proofs appeared on each Side, and of the Agreement; and that on the said Conditions, it was agreed, that *Mathews* should be Re-established, if the Court of Sessions thought fit, but contrary to such Agreement, a Day or Two before the next Sessions, a Report was drawn up and Signed by Mr. *Lenthal* and Mr. *Jordan* without Mr. *Goodenough's* Concurrence (who acted very impartially in this Matter) importing, that they had Examined the Matter to them referred, and that they found, that *Mathews* kept as good Orders as any other Publick House in *Bampton*, and that it was their Opinion, he should be Re-established without taking any Notice of the Proofs against him, or of the Agreement. This Report they gave to *Mathews* himself to be presented to the Court of Sessions. Mr. *Coxeter* knowing their Partiality, and suspecting their Honour, went to the Sessions prepared to prove what had been before alledged and proved against *Mathews*, and there Opposed the Report as drawn, and exposed the Unfairness of their Proceedings. In regard it mentioned none of the Proofs, or the Conditions of the Agreement, which would have

have justified the Reasonableness of Mr. Coxeter's Proceedings, *Mathews* being present in Court, owned what Mr. Coxeter said was True, and by his Consent declared, that he obliged himself to perform the Agreement, and to keep a more Orderly House for the future, and to have his Licence restored him on that Condition, but was severely Checked by the Court for his former Disorders. Mr. Coxeter Examined a Witness in Court upon Oath, to satisfy the Bench, that the Report was Partial and False, but consented to *Mathews's* Re-establishment pursuant to the Agreement, (which he had no intent to avoid) if the Court thought fit.

The Justices who Signed the Report did not appear at the Sessions to justify the same, and Mr. *Lenshal* was displeased with Mr. Coxeter for laying open their Proceedings. Mr. *Frederick's* Representation of this Matter is most notoriously False and Scandalous almost in every Instance, as may appear, by comparing it with his Relation, which is True in every Particular. Mr. Coxeter never once mentioned to the Parishioners, that he had found such Expedient, or ever made any such Promises as the Representation charges him with, to induce any one to subscribe the Certificate, on which *Mathews* was suppressed, neither did he read more or less to them than the Certificate contained, but every subscriber read it himself, or heard the Whole read, nor did any one that was asked, refuse to subscribe the same, except Mr. *Frederick*, and the Reasons he gave for such Refusal were, that he was only a Sojourner in the Parish, and had nothing to do in the Matter, and that *Mathews* was a Sub-Tenant to Mr. *Frederick's* Aunt, and should he certify any thing against him, it would be a Discouragement to his said Aunt's Tenants;

ants; yet at the same Time he owned the Truth of what was Certified, saying that he objecting against calling one of the Children (which was begotten on *Mathews's* Daughter) a Bastard, because the Father and Mother of that Child Inter-married about a Month or some very short Time before the Child was Born. When *Mathews* was Ordered to be Suppressed, the Generality of the Parishoners were so far from being Surprized or Displeased at it, that they thanked Mr. *Coxeter* for his Care of the Parish, and were well pleased with the Justice that had been done them, as will appear by their Second Certificate against *Mathews* beforementioned, and the Court were so far from Censuring, that they approved Mr. *Coxeter's* Proceedings, and granted all that he insisted on as allowing it to be Just, Mr. *Coxeter* was also as careful as possible, to prevent the Whore's escaping, always taking up the Keys of his House, but she knowing that her Master's Intent was to send her to *Bridewell*, escaped out at a Window in the Night, when Mr. *Coxeter* was just come from the Sessions, and when she had not been Delivered Three Weeks, Mr. *Coxeter* applied to the Officers also to secure her, who declared, that they were not willing to send her to *Bridewell*, least she should grow Sickly, and be Chargeable her self, as well as her Child, and none of the Parishoners that Mr. *Coxeter* knows of, complained thereof, except Mr. *Frederick* and his few Adherents, chiefly his Aunt's Tenants. Mr. *Frederick*, who before that Time falsely pretended great Friendship to Mr. *Coxeter*, did all he could to Byass Mr. *Lentbal* in *Mathews's* Favour, and to stir him up against Mr. *Coxeter*; and tho' he had often protested to Mr. *Coxeter*, that he would not appear in it, and had frequently

owned that *Mathews* deserved to be punished, and declared, that he was the last Man that he would stir for, yet under-hand, by Letter and otherwise, he made all the Interest he could for him, which being discovered, Mr. *Coxeter* told him of the Treachery, and of some other Abuses which Mr. *Frederick* had put on Mr. *Coxeter*, and thereupon Mr. *Frederick* finding himself Detected, was Angry, and said it was Time to break off Acquaintance, and declared, he would oppose Mr. *Coxeter*, and not only so, but he extended his animosity to all that had joined with Mr. *Coxeter*, and particularly to *Bartholomew Collingwood*, (Tenant of the Duke of *Shrewsbury's*) and to *Charles Knipe*, who were that Year Overseers of the Poor of *Bampton*, and as such had joined with Mr. *Coxeter* to oblige *Mathews* to Indemnify the Parish.

I being One of the Justices to whom the Matter of Mathews was referred, and being present at the Examination of the Witnesses on both Sides, and remembering something of the Agreement then made, do certify, that what is above Related concerning the Proofs for and against him, and his Partiality of the Examination and Report is True, to the best of my Remembrance.

Wm. Goodenough.

I being one of the Overseers of the Poor of Bampton at the Time, that the Comest was in the said Parish about Mathews, and being present with Mr. Coxeter when he went to Mathews, and to the Sessions, and at the Examination of that Matter before the Three Justices, do know that the whole Account thereof, before given by Mr. Coxeter is True in every Particular.

particular. Witness my Hand the Sixteenth Day of October, 1713.

Bartho. Collingwood

I being One of the Church Wardens of the Parish of Bampton, at the same Time that the Comest was there about Rowland Mathews, and being also present at the Quarter Sessions at Oxon, and having Signed the before-mentioned Certificates, do know, that the whole Account before given by Mr. Coxeter, relating to the said Mathews, is true in every Particular. Witness my Hand, the 19th Day of February 1713.

Edward Kendall

I being One of the Overseers of the Poor of Bampton, and having Signed the aforesaid Certificates against Rowland Mathews, and joining with the other Officers of the said Parish in the Prosecution of Mathews, and being present at the Quarter Session, and the Examination before the Three Justices, do know, that the whole Relation of that Matter before given by Mr. Coxeter, is true in every Particular. Witness my Hand the 19th Day of February, 1713.

Charles Knipe

III. The aforesaid Overseers of the Poor having served their Year (viz.) the Year 1707, and given up their Accounts on the Easter-Tuesday following (as was usual) their said Accounts being allowed by the Vestry, and confirmed by Two Justices, were Eight Pounds, Five Shillings, Three Farthings, out of Pocket, and advanced near Four Pounds more after they were out of their Office, to pay the Poor the first Fortnightly Pay of the Year 1708, there being no Tax then given to the New Overseers, and these Old Officers being offered a Tax of Two Shillings per

er Yard Land (the Way of Taxing there) if
 they would Collect it to reimburse themselves,
 accepted it, and Collected the same as Assistants
 to the New Overseers of the Poor; and though
 they had not Collected the whole Tax by Three
 or Four Pounds, yet they charged themselves
 with the whole as if it had been Received, and
 paid all the Overplus thereof, except One Pound,
 fourteen Shillings, Nine Pence Farthing, over
 to the New Overseers of the Poor, long before
 the Fifth Day of *September* following, upon which
 day, they also paid the One Pound, Fourteen
 Shillings, Nine Pence Farthing, and their Ac-
 counts were then allowed at a Vestry, and after-
 wards confirmed by Two Justices; but Complaint
 having been made to the Justices by Mr. *Fre-*
derick, the latter End of *August* before, that
 these Assistants refused to give up their Accounts,
 and a Warrant being obtained against them, to
 appear at a Petty Sessions at *Winney* the Second
 day of *September*, they appeared accordingly, and
 were offered to give up their Accounts though
 they had not Received their Tax, but Mr. *Len-*
al being desirous to gratify Mr. *Frederick* in the
 punishment of these Officers, ordered a Warrant
 to be issued against them to levy on them Twenty
 Shillings each for not Accounting; Mr. *Frederick*
 brought this Warrant to the Petty Constable,
 and ordered him to levy the Money presently,
 but he deferring it till the *Sunday* following, at
 the Vestry then held, Mr. *Coxeter* told Mr. *Frede-*
rick, that the Warrant to levy Twenty Shillings
 a Piece on the Officers for that Offence, was
 not Justifiable by the Statute, but that if they
 really refused to Account, the Officers should
 have been Committed, and that this being a
 Tax of the current Year, they were not absolutely
 obliged to Account till Four Days after the
 End

End of the Year; yet, that since they had Accounted, and Paid all that they could be charged with, he would do well to advise the Justices of it, and acquaint them that it was believed the Warrant was not agreeable to the Statute, and therefore to advise them to recal it; but instead thereof, 'tis believed, that Mr. *Frederick* represented it to Mr. *Lentbal*, as if he had been Abused, Reflected on, and Affronted, for granting such a Warrant, and inflamed the Matter so, that he procured the same Justice's Warrant against the Constable, and compelled him to let the Money on the 30th Day of *October* following, though the Accounts had been passed, and the whole Money paid about Two Months before the Levying this Money being thought Illegal and Oppressive, the Officers made Affidavits of all these Matters, and retained Mr. *Coxeter* as their Counsel, to move the Court of *Queen's Bench* in *Michaelmas* Term following, for an Information against the Justices, (the Original Affidavits containing all the Particulars aforesaid, is now in Mr. *Coxeter's* Hands) Mr. *Jordan* being then in *London*, Mr. *Coxeter* sent him Notice of it, and desired him to acquaint Mr. *Lentbal*; Mr. *Jordan* came to Mr. *Coxeter* the last Day of the Term, and promised, if he would not move it, the Officers should have their Money restored; if the Levying thereof was not warrantable. Whereupon Mr. *Coxeter* did not move it, as being desirous to accomodate the Matter without Trouble; Mr. *Lentbal* was Angry, that Mr. *Jordan* had made such Promise, and Cursed both him and Mr. *Coxeter* (as Mr. *Coxeter* was informed) and refused to perform it, and ordered the Money to be Distributed to the Poor, and the Officers (being mean Persons) suffered under the Oppression and let it rest. Nevertheless

Mr. *Lenthall* continued his Resentment against Mr. *Coxeter*, which he shewed by many abusive Words against him behind his Back, and by Writing a Letter to one Mr. *Deux*, to be communicated to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, thereupon very much abusing Mr. *Coxeter*, and endeavouring to possess the Duke with some evil Opinion of him, and has taken many other Occasions since that to Affront and Abuse Mr. *Coxeter*, before and since Mr. *Coxeter* has been in Commission of the Peace.

All the foregoing Account relating to the Levying of Twenty Shillings a Piece on the Overseers of the Poor of Bampton, and the Manner of doing thereof, I (being One of the Sufferers) do attest to be true, the 16th Day of October, 1713.

Bar. Collingwood.

All the foregoing Account relating to the Levying of Twenty Shillings a Piece, on the Overseers of the Poor of Bampton, and the Manner of doing thereof, I (being one of the Sufferers) do attest to be true. Witness my Hand the 19th Day of February, 1713.

Charles Knipe.

IV. About this Time, Mr. *Frederick* having done many disobliging Things to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, and Mr. *Coventry*, at the Request of the latter, it was agreed by both, that he should be forbidden the Privilege of taking any Game within the Manour of *Bampton*, which for some years before had been Connived at, and Mr. *Coxeter* being present, by Accident, when this was so agreed, was desired by them both to deliver their Commands to their Respective Bayliffs of the Manour: Who accordingly did so, and Mr. *Frederick* was forbidden by the Duke's Bayliff

Bayliff, *John Sandelands*, whom he told that he would pursue the Game, notwithstanding such Prohibition, and afterwards by the Duke's Chief Steward, and also by Mr. *Coventry's* Bayliff, whom he told; that he would break his Head. There was the greater Reason for this Prohibition, because Mr. *Frederick's* Aunt having a Lease for Twenty One Years, of a small Manour within the Parish of *Bampton*, held of the Dean and Chapter of *Exeter*, pretended to depute a Game-keeper to take Game all over *Bampton*, &c. and carryed this Pretence so far as to write to her Landlords, and put them upon Disputing the Right of the other Lords, but they were soon convinced of their Error, and gave up their and their Tenant's Pretensions with some Resentment towards Mr. *Frederick* for misleading them, and he then withdrew the pretended Deputation, that he or his Aunt had given to a Person to be Gamekeeper, and ever since (tho' he cannot but know the contrary) he accuseth Mr. *Coxeter*, as the Man who solicited and procured that Prohibition, tho' he was no way concerned therein, than as above: Nevertheless, Mr. *Frederick* in Contempt of the Duke's and Mr. *Coventry's* Prohibition, has ever since continued to destroy the Game, rather more than before, and that, not only when he is present himself, (for his Diversion) but also by his Servants, and others in his Absence, which can only be for the sake of the Profit thereof in House-keeping, and that himself is a meer Poacher, and no fair Sportsman. Mr. *Coxeter* is able to shew sufficient Evidence of upon Oath.

V. The 26th Day of October 1711, *Richard Minchin* of *Bampton*, Baker, with several other Persons at the Request of Mr. *Snell*, Junior, went

went out with Mr. *Snell's* Greyhounds to take
 an Hare for the said Mr. *Snell*, who promised
 to follow and accompany them, but they finding
 an Hare before Mr. *Snell* came, coursed and
 killed her, and carryed her to Mr. *Snell*, Mr.
Frederick hearing of it (and perhaps grudging all
 that went beside himself) examined *Leonard Fell*,
 one of the Company, who confessing the killing
 of the Hare, and telling who were present, as
 soon as he heard that *Minchin* was one of the
 Company, said he would punish him, (Note,
this Minchin was Son-in law to John Sandelands,
the Duke of Shrewsbury's Bayliff, who forbid Mr.
Frederick the Game) and in Order thereto, he
 procured a special Warrant from Mr. *Lenthal*
 the next Day, to bring *Minchin* only before
 him, *Minchin* hearing of it absented himself for
 some Time, and in the interim, his Wife, and
John Sandelands, Junior, and also Mr. *Snell* (by
 Message sent by *Minchin's* Wife) applyed them-
 selves to Mr. *Frederick* to cease his Prosecution
 against *Minchin*, but without Success, for Mr.
Frederick told the Wife, he would shew her
 Husband no Mercy, and when she requested
 his Favour in her Father *Sandelands's* Name;
 Mr. *Frederick* answered, *Her Father was an Old*
Knave, and that he wanted an Opportunity to do
him an Injury, or Diskindness, and added, *That*
if it had not been for her Brother John Sandelands,
Junior, (who, he said, was an Honest Fellow) he
would have done her Father a Misefise long since,
or to that Effect; whereupon, she desired her
 Brother to go to him; but first told him, that
 Mr. *Snell, Senior*, had also given her Orders to
 request in his Name (whose the Dogs were,
 and who had the Hare) that her Husband might
 not be Prosecuted; but nothing prevailing, her
 Brother went to him also, and used all the In-

treaties he could in his Father's and his own
 Name, but Mr. Frederick answered, That Min-
 chin should have no Mercy shewn him, and asked the
 said John Sandelands, Junior, how he could desire
 any Favour from him, saying that all Sandelands's
 Family were Enemies to him, and that his Father
 had endeavoured to set him and some other Persons
 at Variance; adding, (viz.) you know what I mean,
 about the Game, and that had it not been for thee,
 I would have been upon thy Father long ago.
 During all these Transactions, Mr. Coxeter knew
 nothing of the Matter, until upon the Second
 of November following, John Sandelands, Junior
 (with intent as is supposed to save the Infor-
 mers Moiety of the penalty) went and laid an
 Information against his Brother Minchin before
 Mr. Coxeter; and the Third of November, when
 Minchin was taken, he and Minchin's Wife both
 deposed all the Matters aforesaid upon Oath,
 (the Original Affidavits whereof Signed by them
 respectively, Mr. Coxeter now has in his Hands to
 shew) and they will at any Time attest the
 same. Whereby it plainly appeared to Mr.
 Coxeter, that Mr. Frederick had singled out Min-
 chin for Punishment, without taking any No-
 tice of the Three other Persons (some of them
 as great Poachers) who were Offenders in the
 same Instance with Minchin, purely to gratify
 his Malice and Prejudice against Sandelands,
 and as much as in him lay to Affront the Duke
 through his Servant, and to Ruin Minchin, by
 levying Five Pounds on him, a Penalty, which
 through his Poverty, he was in no Case able
 to bear. Mr. Coxeter had the greater Reason
 to believe this, because before Mr. Frederick
 was forbidden the Game by Sandelands, Minchin
 himself had been a constant Companion with
 him in his Diversions after the Game (as may

also appear by an Affidavit of *Minchin's*, where-
 in he sets forth *Mr. Frederick's* scandalous Way
 of Poaching, such as shooting Hares before his
 Dogs, and killing or laming them in their
 Forms, tho' he had Dogs with him, and that
 he was so keen a Sportsman, that he pursued
 the Game even on *Sundays*, which Affidavit is
 in *Mr. Coxeter's* Hands) upon these Considerati-
 ons, and also because *Mr. Frederick* had really
 no Authority (otherwise than as an Informer)
 to call any Offender to Account in the Manour
 of *Bampton*, without the Consent and Direction
 of the Lords of the said Manour; *Mr. Coxeter*
 pursuant to the Statute of the Fourth and Fifth
 of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, which is still
 in Force, levyed the Penalty of Twenty Shillings
 only, on the Offender, who paid it, and there-
 by the Law was satisfied, by a sufficient Mulct
 to deter the Criminal, and Mercy was exerci-
 sed towards his Family. *Mr. Coxeter* was after-
 wards more confirmed in the aforesaid Opinion,
 by *Mr. Frederick's* Behaviour towards the said
John Sandelands, Sen. who certified the same under
 his Hand the 7th of *January* 1711, whereby
 he sets forth *Mr. Frederick's* Behaviour towards
 him, at the Time that he forbade him the Game
 by the Duke's Command, and at several Times
 afterwards, and says, that although he had been,
 and then was a Tenant to *Mr. Frederick's* Aunt,
 and had always been civilly used by her, and
 by him also, till the Time of that Prohibition,
 yet since the said *Mr. Frederick* had often threat-
 ned to Sue him, if he was the least behind with
 his Rent, and had called him Old Rogue, Rascal,
 and other foul Language, and threatened to throw
 him in the Fire, without any manner of Provo-
 cation, when he went to pay his Rent, and
 that in many other Instances he had of late

shewed himself so very malicious against him that he verily believed he would be glad of any Opportunity to do the said *Sandelands* a Mischief, and this he says, for no other Reason, that he could believe (having done nothing to disoblige him) but because by the Command of the Duke, he had forbidden him the Game, and this he certified, that he was ready to attest upon his Oath. Mr. *Frederick* enraged that he was disappointed, by Mr. *Coxeter* of his Revenge, sent to Mr. *Lenthal*, who being ready on all Occasions to serve him, the Fourth of November, wrote to Mr. *Coxeter* the following Letter, viz.

S I R,

‘ ABOUT a Week before this, I had an Information against one *Minchin* of *Bampton*, for killing a Hare, upon it I sent a Warrant, but he has hid ever since, I am now told, that his Brother finding ’twas like to go ill with him, has without (as I suppose acquainting you, that I had granted a Warrant) on purpose to defraud the Person that informed of the Fifty Shillings, that is by the Act his due, laid the Information himself before you, I give you the trouble of this to let you know it, and desire you’d do me the Favour to leave him to me, the Information being first laid before me, and I sending a special Warrant for him, I am confident you’d not have medled in it, had you known thus much before; I apprehend the Brother will have no manner of Title to the Money, because he came too late, I am too much a Sportsman not to do all that is in my Power, for the Encouragement of any Person, that will at any Time impeach such
 • very

very great Poachers, as I here he is, and therefore cannot consent, that he shall be in the least insur'd, by one that has not the least Title to it. I am,

The Letter is
not dated.

' *Your Humble Servant,*
' J. Lenthal.

By this Letter it seemed to Mr. *Coxeter*, that Mr. *Lenthal* had prejudged the Cause, and resolved to levy Five Pounds on *Minchin*, before he heard what Defence he could make, this appears by his mentioning Fifty Shillings, as the Informer's due, and his being so fond of hearing himself, that he could not consent any one else should. On the next Day Mr. *Coxeter* sent his Man to Mr. *Lenthal*, with the following Answer, viz.

SIR,

5th Nov. 1711.

I Am favoured with Your's, in answer to which, I beg leave to lay before you the whole matter, as it appeared to me; On Friday last, *John Sandelands*, Junior, came to me to desire my Warrant against *Richard Minchin*, of our Parish, for killing an Hare, which I granted, on Saturday Morning he was taken by the Officer, and brought before me and Convicted; and I levied the Penalty of the Fourth and Fifth of *William* and *Mary* on him; when he was before me, Mr. *Dewe* informed me, that there was a special Warrant of yours against him for the same Fact, on the Information of a Gentleman from hence, who I thought, did not pretend to covet the Informer's Reward, and that, so the Offender was Punished, it was indifferent by whom; and in Regard no Law is repealed by the last Act of Parliament, I thought it in my Power to levy
' the

the Penalty of any Act now in Force, according to the Circumstances and Ability of the Offender, and Quality of the Offence, for one may be Ruined by the same Penalty, that another can easily bear. I scarce credited the Report, that you had granted a special Warrant, knowing how prudently Cautious you had often declared your self in that Point, and no doubt, but some strange Importunity now prevailed on you for it, grounded upon an unjust Prejudice, taken against the Offender's Father, for doing his Duty at the Command of the Duke of *Shrewsbury*; of which I may hereafter give you a full Account. I would not have meddled in this Matter at all, even though the Person was before me, when I was so informed by Mr. *Dewe*, had I not been Sensible of the Partiality and Prejudice of your Informer, who I must say, ought to have been the last Man to have done it, for many Reasons; especially as this Case was, as I am rightly informed; for the Persons that were concerned, and equally Guilty, were Mr. *Fell's* Two Sons, *Minchin*, and one *Collingwood*; they had Mr. *Snell's* Dogs, and went to take the Hare for him, and he had it when taken, and his Son promised to meet them, and some Respect might have been paid him, who perhaps is better Qualified than the Informer, that *Fell's* fetched the Dogs, and *Minchin* went with them, and if he was Criminal, they were at least equally, if not more so, and the Information before you ought to have been against all else the Informer was Partial, to gratify particular Prejudice. I am told he promises *Leonard Fell* the Informer's Reward, who being one of the most guilty least deserves it; however, had I known sooner, that you had been so de-

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sirous to hear and determine this Matter your self, I would not have interferred with you, and I wish I had known time enough to have deferred the Matter, and concurred with you, for I am satisfied, had you been as sensible of the whole Matter as I am, you would perhaps have laid a milder Fine than I did, or at least would have been impartial in the Distribution of your Justice to all the Offenders, for they are equally Punishable, and may yet suffer, if any one informs ; but as the Case now stands, 'tis not in my Power to retract a Judgment already passed, and complied with, because *Nemo bis punitur pro eodem Delicto*, were it in my Power to recal what is done, none should be more ready to oblige Mr. *Lenthal*, and if ever the like Case happens, I will first acquaint you, but 'tis now too late, and indeed I could have no manner of regard to the Malice of the Informer, manifested in his Partiality and whole Conduct, none being a greater Poacher than *Leonard Fell*. When I can do my self the Honour of seeing you, I will Discourse you more fully on this Matter, and in the mean Time, I am with all Respect,

• Your most humble Servant,
• Richard Coxeter.

The same 5th of November, the Constable took *Minchin* to *Burford* before Mr. *Lenthal*, who then examined the aforesaid *Leonard Fell*, one of the criminals against him, and told *Minchin*, he could be punished, and accordingly the 12th of the same Month, Mr. *Lenthal* came to *Bampton* Mr. *Frederick's* House, and there sent for *Minchin* before him, and examined him again, and he or more Witnesses against him, particularly *Johnson* a Baker, who being afterwards informed

formed against by one *Arther*, for the like Offence and examined before Mr. *Coxeter* discovered the manner of Mr. *Lenthal's* and *Frederick's* Proceedings against *Minchin*, viz. how they and their Accomplice, Mr. *Ekyns*, forced *Johnson* to swear against *Minchin*, by threatening to send *Johnson* to Goal if he would not swear, or make him Pay Five Pounds himself, and promising him Pardon if he would so swear, and at last made him swear to answer to such Questions as Mr. *Lenthal* should demand, and then demanded an Answer to such Questions as they pleased, by reason of which Oath, and of their Threats and Promises, and through Mr. *Ekyns's* persuasion to comply with Mr. *Lenthal's* Demands, *Johnson* did Witness against the said *Minchin*, but swears 'twas against his Conscience, as may appear at large by the Information of the said *Arther* and the said *Johnson's* Examination, the Originals whereof, are to be seen in the said Mr. *Coxeter's* Hands. The same 12th of November after this Examination of *Minchin* made by Mr. *Lenthal*, he issued his Warrant against *Minchin* to levy on him Five Pounds more, for the same Offence, that Mr. *Coxeter* had punished him for. (Note, The Time of this Examination, and issuing the Warrant to levy Five Pounds, shews Mr. *Frederick's* Representation to be very False, as pretending that it was not till after the next Session when he had first consulted the Justices there, whereas it was about Two Months before the Session *Minchin* being unable to raise the Money, and seconded a few Days, and at last Mr. *Snell* lent him the Money, which his Wife carried to Mr. *Frederick*, who to stop the Clamour of the greatest Part of the Neighbourhood then against him, gave back Fifty Shillings as the Informer's Part, and Thirty Shillings more as *Minchin's* part.

or, but this he did by his own assumed Authority, not by any proper Endeavours with the Officers of the Parish, or Consent of the Neighbours, which he insinuates ; and ordered her to carry the other Twenty Shillings to the Constable, to keep till he should direct it to be disposed of, herein acting the Part of *INFORMER*, Justice of the Peace, Constable and Overseer of the Poor, without any Title to either (but the said.) The Parts of this Narrative relating to the manner of Mr. *Frederick's* Dealings with *Richard Minchin* therein named, and the manner of Levying the Money on him by Mr. *Lentshal*, and all other Matters before related, so far, as we the Subscribers severally and respectively are mentioned to be any way concerned therein, we now to be true in every Particular, and have already severally attested the same upon Oath, in such manner as before is mentioned, witness our Hands the 19th Day of February 1713.

John Sandelands.

Richard Minchin.

Mary Minchin.

The levying and disposing of this Money must be just or unjust, if the former, then Mr. *Frederick* unjustly gave away Thirty Shillings of that part of it, that belonged to the Poor, and by a wrong Hand, if the latter, then the whole ought to have been restored. The Constable took the twenty Shillings, tho' he afterwards owned, he had then no Warrant in his Hands for so doing, having returned it as he affirmed it to Mr. *Lentshal*, and afterwards disposed of it as is pretended, by Mr. *Frederick's* own Direction, without consulting the proper Officers of the Parish ; and both he and Mr. *Lentshal* took all Opportunities to reflect on, and exclaim against, and abuse Mr. *Coxeter*, the latter cursing him, and threatening to

to stick on his Skirts, &c. of which Mr. Coxeter having Notice by Letter (he being then in London) the 27th of November, wrote Mr. Lenthal the following Letter.

27th Nov. 1711.

SIR,

‘ I Am informed, that since I left the Court
 ‘ I try, you have thought fit to inflict a further Punishment on *Richard Minchin*, for another Offence in killing an Hare, if he is really Guilty, I have nothing to object against your Proceedings, as being no way solicitous to skreen any Person from Punishment, when justly his Due, yet I take it to be mine and every one’s Business, especially, that is in Commission, to be Equity’s Friend, and to relieve the Poor and Oppressed, from the Malice of any Informer that rises against them. But what Occasions me to give you this Trouble, is, that I am likewise informed, that you have been pleased liberally to bestow some strange Benedictions on me, and to threaten that you will stick on my Skirts for Affronting you, on to that Purpose. Now, Sir, In the first Place I must tell you, that nothing I have done, was intended as an Affront to you, and if you misconstitue it, that’s not my Fault; I would therefore fairly and calmly debate the Matter with you, and tell you, that were I as ready to take Fire, I might turn the other side of the Question, and ask Mr. *Lenthal*, that supposing any Person in *Burford*, had been Criminal in the same manner, and any Neighbour had come with an Information to me, and desired my Warrant, whether I had done Civilly by Mr. *Lenthal*, to send a special One into his Town, tho’ my Informer had been never so importu-

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nate with me for it; I should have thought my self to blame, and in no Case would have put that Affront on you, or Trouble on the Country, for first it would be tacitely saying; either that I resolved to be Partial in doing Justice my self, and intended to favour the Person accused by acquitting or lightly Punishing him, or else that I determined to be severe, and oppress him, or else that I believed the Justices of the Place would not do Justice, at least it is troubling the Country to come Five Miles, when the Business might be done at Home, in neither of which should I think I had done as became me, especially in this Case, because, if I am not mistaken, the Act gives the Right of Hearing and Determining Offences of that Nature to the Justice or Justices of the Peace where the Offence is committed; therefore if it be scarce in any Case prudent or advisable for a Justice to grant special Warrants, certainly 'tis less so in this, where it seems to take away a Right given to another, by the very Act whereby I am to proceed; but perhaps you might not so much resent what I did, as you thought it an Affront to your self; as you did what I wrote concerning your Informer; I doubt not but he was Zealous enough to inflame that matter to the highest Pitch, and hear he also has been very free in his hard Sayings of me, which he may know I despise, as much as I abhor the Baseness of a Partial, Oppressive and Unjust Prosecution; for I well know from the Evidence before me, that tho' his Information immediately reached only a poor Person; yet he was singled out for Punishment, only to gratify his private Hatred and Prejudice to the Offender's Relations, and that it aimed obliquely at a

' much higher Mark, whose Honour I shall always
 ' Vindicate to the utmost of my Power, against
 ' all Opposition. Tho' I am under no manner
 ' of Apprehensions from any Man's Threatnings
 ' against me ; yet I desire no misunderstanding
 ' with you upon this Occasion ; and persuade my
 ' self, no Man's Prejudice will byass you to make
 ' it so, if you consider the Matter fairly. I have
 ' been thus long and free with you, because I
 ' hate to treasure any Thing in my Breast against
 ' any Man, or to hear that another is offended
 ' at me, and not to tell the Person concerned
 ' of it, and ask whether it be so or not, and for
 ' what Reason. I know of no Guilt that I can
 ' lay to my own Charge ; if you can reasonably
 ' accuse me of any, and make it appear, I shall
 ' be as willing to acknowledge an Error, and make
 ' Satisfaction, as I shall to vindicate the Innocent
 ' Intentions of, Sir,

' Your humble Servant,

' Richard Coxeter.

Upon Receipt of this Letter, Mr. Frederic
 (to shew that Mr. Coxeter was mistaken, in saying
 that Minchin was Punished for another Offence
 and that he might Glory in the Punishment of
 him himself) the Fifth of December following
 wrote a Note, and delivered it to the public
 Cryer, who by his Order cryed it at several
 Places in Bampton: The Note is in the following
 Words, Spelling and Sense, viz.

Whereas it has bin most falsly and industriously
Reported, that the Five Pounds paid by Richard
Minchin of this Town, for killing a Hare, was for
a Second Fact. To prevent the Imposition of such
Story on the Neighborhood, This is to satisfy
Persons, that the Five Pounds soe paid by the said
Richard Minchin, was for killing the Hare

Frederic

Frederick prosecuted him for, and, not for a Second
Fact as some would have it pass for.

The Original Note written by Mr. Frederick's
own Hand, is now in Mr. Coxeter's Hands. This
is sufficient to prove, that *Minchin* had been twice
punished for the same Offence.

About the same Time Mr. Coxeter (being in
London) received the following abusive Letter
from Mr. Lenthall, (*viz.*)

S I R,

I Received your Favour of a very long Let-
ter from you; to answer all the Particu-
lars will tire my Hands, perhaps as much as
your Patience; but however I'll do't as short
as the length of your's will permit. You tell
me you hear, I've thought fit to inflict a fur-
ther Punishment on *Minchin* for a Second Of-
fence, which if he's really Guilty of, you have
nothing to object against my Proceedings, not
being solicitous to screen any Offender where
he justly deserves Punishment. Whether 'twas
for that or another, I think my self no ways
oblig'd to acquaint you; but let me tell you,
sir, that your questioning his Guilt, is taxing
my Justice, which I don't apprehend belongs
to you to Censure; and as I take it (for all
your Professions to the contrary) the whole
scope of your Letter and Proceeding in this
Affair, has been a design'd Affront to me, cloak'd
under an Hypocritical Vail of Moderation and
Justice to your Neighbour; how well you de-
serve that Character, a late Instance in *Row.*
Mathew's Case, will make appear. As to your
screening any Offender, I would have Mr.
Coxeter know, whatever great Opinion he may
have of himself, I don't think him Powerful
enough,

' enough, tho' a Justice of the Peace to screen
 ' the meanest Offender from Punishment, or to
 ' have Eloquence enough, tho' a Barrister, to ge
 ' it mitigated. To the Second Objection you
 ' make, viz. My sending a Warrant to your
 ' Town, as you call it, (tho' I'm afraid you have
 ' as little Title to that, as to some other Thing
 ' you lay claim to) I'll deal very ingeniously
 ' with you in my Answer, which is, that had
 ' been on any other Account than what it was
 ' I should not have done it; but knowing that
 ' neither Mr. *Dew*, nor your self were Sports
 ' men, I thought you might be more favourable
 ' to the Criminal than he deserv'd, he being
 ' a notorious Offender in that kind, and I'm
 ' sure, your Proceedings have given me no Rea
 ' son to alter my Opinion. In that Paragraph
 ' you very slyly (as I suppose you think) tell me
 ' I have been partial, have oppress'd, troubled
 ' the Country, and a great many more of those
 ' tender Expressions, which are so notoriously
 ' False, that I don't think them worth the
 ' Answering; but if you won't think me guilty
 ' of too much Presumption, I shall beg leave
 ' to set a Gentleman (that tells us, he is a Barrister
 ' once more right in an Act of Parliament, the
 ' right Interpretation of which, is a Thing of
 ' difficult a Nature, and in which you have had
 ' the Misfortune so often to have err'd, that
 ' cou'd heartily wish, you wou'd (tho' late)
 ' convinc'd you have not a Talent for. You say
 ' that the right of hearing and determining
 ' those Offences, belong to none but the Justice
 ' of the Place where such Offences are committ
 ' ed. By that you must mean the Justice that
 ' lives in the Parish, otherwise it does not an
 ' swer your End. Can you be so Ignorant your
 ' self to think so, or so very Unwise to believe

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you can impose that Opinion on me? When the Words of the Act neither say, nor tend to any such Thing. By the Justice of the Place (if any such Expression be in the Act, which I am pretty Confident is not) must be meant any Justice of the County, otherwise the Parliament must suppose (which no Man in his right Senses can believe they did) a Justice of the Peace in every Parish in the Kingdom; or that they design'd every Person that had the good Fortune to live in a Parish where none was, might kill what Game they pleas'd unpunish'd; which they might do, were it not in the Power of a Justice of the Peace to act out of his own Parish. Towards the latter End of your Letter, you Complement me, either with a great deal of good Nature in not resenting the Freedom you had taken with me, or a great deal of Folly, to be prevail'd on to do that on another's Account, that I wou'd not on my own. Besides that Gentleman, whom you are pleas'd to term Informer, and brand with so despicable a Character as you have done both in this and your other (and who setting aside your Commission is your Superior in all Things) I'm sure is a Man of too much Honour to deserve the Character you give him, and wou'd not want the Assistance of another Person to right him, did he think it worth his while to take Notice of it. And I'm confident wou'd scorn to COIN any thing to anothers Disadvantage, tho' you so liberally tax him with it, and tho' he may not have Ingenuity enough to make a MEDAL, he has too much to make a Lie. How you can fetch his Revenge so faras you do, I can't imagine; and sure none but a Man that is most exquisite in Malice can believe, that because a Servant had obey'd the Com-

mands of his Lord any Person, could think of Ruining him and his Family. I'm satisfied there cannot be the least Ground for such a Thought; both because the Fellow own'd to me that he had been often told of his Poaching by Mr. *Frederick*, and threatned to be complain'd of if he did not leave it of; and because I never heard Mr. *Fred.* name the D. of *Shrewsbury*, but with all the Respect that's due to that Great Man; and I'll assure you for my self, I was so very well received by his Grace when I had the Honour to wait on him to inform him how little Ground you had to COIN the last Story you did to him, that I wou'd be the last Man in the Kingdom that wou'd do any thing that shou'd look like Disrespect towards him. And therefore why you shou'd bring the Duke in to be any ways concern'd in this, unless, it be to screen your self, I can't think, and can compare your wondrous Valour you express in Vindicating the D's Honour (which can have no Enemies as I know of) to nothing but a Soldier that draws his Sword and brandisheth it in the Air while there's no Enemy in view, and perhaps wou'd be the first that wou'd calmly put it up at the appearance of one. I am now as you may reasonably guess pretty heartily tir'd, so shall increase neither my own Trouble nor yours any further, but only to tell you that I am as much your humble Servant, as 'tis possible for any one to be that has received so many Civilities as I have so very lately had from you, and that I shall very readily lay hold of the first Opportunity of returning them; which I begg you to believe is the real Intention of,

Dec. the 3d.

1711.

Your oblig'd humble Servant,

J. Lenthall

To

To this Letter Mr. Coxeter gave the following Reply, viz.

Dec. 11th 1711.

SIR,

K Nowing I was writing to a Person
 'inclined to be Captious, I kept a Copy;
 and needed no repetition to lengthen your
 Trouble; yet as long as your's is (which much
 exceeds mine you complain of) were I to pare
 off the unpolished Part, the remainder would
 scarce be visible. You were prudently Cautious
 how you owned for what Fact you Fined *Miz-
 bin*; least you should be Censured for doubly
 Punishing the same Crime, against the known
 Maxim of all Courts of Judicature, but your
 Informing Man of Honour with an hardned
 Front, has proclaimed your Overflowing Justice,
 and I happily have it under his Hand, to wit-
 ness the Depth of your Joint Capacities. Tho'
 I must not question the Baker's Guilt, yet I
 hope I may ask whether he can work Mi-
 racles, and kill the same Hare twice. I am
 very unwillingly drawn in to tax your Justice
 when you sit in Judgment; the many Instances
 of its Exactness are best known at Home, there
 let it be Assessed lest it should be Over-rated;
 yet Reason may prompt me to take the same
 Liberty with you, as you do with me; for I
 know no Authority you have over me; And
 this I must say, that I believe you were out of
 the great Chair, or had a treacherous Memo-
 ry, when you unjustly Charged me with Hypo-
 crisy, and Instance the Case of *Mathews* as a
 Proof of my Injustice; which I am sure can't
 be Objected to me, tho' I know where it may,
 and the Report made to the Quarter Sessions
 'in

' in his Case, contrary to the Proofs and Agree-
 ' ment, will prove what I say. Whatever you
 ' please to say of my intending to Affront you
 ' by my Letters and Proceedings, I can with
 ' great Truth affirm, I designed nothing less
 ' but you take the Liberty to abuse me in every
 ' Line, and perhaps think your own Opinion of
 ' me can give a Sanction to such ungenteel Be-
 ' haviour. The Power given by the Commission
 ' of the Peace, I take to be none, either to
 ' skreen or punish an Offender, where the Law
 ' does not warrant; and as inconsiderable as it
 ' may appear in Mr. *Lentbal's* Thoughts, I have
 ' (I think) the same Authority with himself, which
 ' I will never exert, but upon due Consideration
 ' of the Crime, or debase to mean, servile or un-
 ' just Purposes, in Breach of Charity and com-
 ' mon Humanity; and tho' I am no Sportsman
 ' yet shall be as ready as those that are, to punish
 ' Offenders against the Game Act, as the Case
 ' deserves, and the Criminal can bear. Where only
 ' Equity and Justice are pursued, there needs
 ' not Power or Eloquence to skreen or mitigate
 ' and as I cannot derive the First, so, I am sorry
 ' to find, 'tis impossible to learn the Last from
 ' Mr. *Lentbal*. I thank you for your Learned
 ' Reading on the Act of Parliament, which I
 ' doubt you have scarce seen, at least not con-
 ' sidered, any more than that relating to the
 ' Overseers of the Poor, when you were pleased
 ' to levy Money on them contrary thereto
 ' you'd oblige the Sufferers, and do an Act of
 ' becoming Justice and Restitution, if you would
 ' set them right again, and put their Money in
 ' their Pockets; had I acted in so Arbitrary
 ' Manner, what Clamour might I not have heard
 ' In that Act I am sure I was not mistaken, or
 ' in any other wherein you can rectify me; and

if you look on this, you will see where it relates to Carriers, Higlars, &c. any Justice may punish, but where it relates to other Persons (as in the Fourth Paragraph) it seems rather to be intended to be determined by the Justice or Justices of the Peace where the Offence is committed; if any Justice be there (is to be understood) if not, they must go to the next as in other Cases, and not go unpunished, as you very illogically infer; and I take the Reason to be, because they are most likely to know the Merits of the Cause, and least Subject to be imposed on by a false Representation of the Fact; and I only said to that Purpose before, (*viz.*) That, if I was not mistaken the Act expressly gives them the Right, &c. that is; not exclusive of other Justices; but only they are rather preferable to those at a greater Distance, and have the more immediate local Right: At least good Manners would have prompted me not to send a Special Warrant where other Justices reside, and that was what I complained of; and I have not a jot the better Opinion of it, from the Reason you give to excuse it; I am sure you are mistaken, in charging me with positively saying it belongs to none else, for that is what I never intended or thought of; yet I find I must be very tender of contradicting a Man of your Superior Genius; for 'twill be unreasonable to suppose, that the Man of the greatest Estate should not have the most Sense. I never pretended to call *Pampton* my Town, (not even by Implication in the Sense you construe it) or to claim any thing else as mine, that is not so; yet I have so much there and elsewhere, that puts me above being obliged to any one, even to Mr. *Lenthal*, to join in an Order, as he (very
 much

much like a Gentleman) once told me he would
 do to serve me: But if I have not so much
 Estate there in Possession, as Mr. *Lenshal* has
 in *Burford* in Reversion; yet I don't think I
 am ever the less Qualified to do Justice, or to
 understand what is Sense and good Manners,
 nor shall I respect any Man for the one, desti-
 tute of the other. Read *Tully's Paradoxes*, a-
 mong which I recommend to you the Sixth.
 I beg your Pardon for having an Opinion of
 your good Nature, and crave leave to alter it
 without a Complement. I perceive you don't
 yet know the Qualifications of your Man of
 HONOUR; when you are *Clarenceux*, you
 may take upon you to determine of Superi-
 ority, at present you have neither Authority
 to judge, or Skill to distinguish, for I find, as
 yet, you know neither of us. I am not fond
 of lessening the Character of my Superiors;
 some of those who think themselves so, suffi-
 ciently prove to the World how well they de-
 serve that Esteem from others, by their exalted
 Sense, polite Learning and Education, and dis-
 tinguishing Manner of Behaviour. I confess
 my self at a loss to explain your Capital Let-
 ters, you would oblige me to instruct my Ig-
 norance; if you intend them as any Reflection
 on me, I defy my worst Enemies to divulge
 it; if not, they are impertinent Nonsense; for
 I am sure, I never was Artist enough to make,
 or curious enough to buy any *MEDAL*; or
 ever *Coin'd any Story to the Duke*, but what I
 have told him I will justify to be Truth; which I
 know cannot be averr'd of a certain *LIBEL*
 sent to be communicated to him. If you con-
 sider the first Ground of our late Misunder-
 standing, and by what Fire your Anger was
 first kindled against me, and that 'tis now fo-
 mented.

mented by the same Brand, with as little Reason, no Place can justly remain for its continuance; and had you heard the same Evidence that I did, you would not have thought my Suggestion so far fetched, for this is not the first Time that *Sandelands* has been ill treated, on the very Score I mentioned; and 'tis obvious enough for what Reason his Son-in-law, is now singled out from other more notorious Offenders; and 'tis Merry enough to think that speaking well of the Great Man you mention, can atone for daily Affronting Actions, and Invasions of his Property, notwithstanding his known Prohibition. Just and honourable Actions towards him are as much his due, as such Expressions; no Man can justly Challenge better of both Sorts; and I'll never believe his Heart to be Right, who speaks fairly, and acts foully. My Province is not in the Camp, where the Gown has no Business, but when the Enemies to Justice appear thick, I dare vindicate the Poor Man's Cause, as well as the Rich; yet I confess I am such a Coward, that I dare not break my Oath, for fear of any Man's Frowns, or hopes of his Favour, Your very Civil Declaration in the Conclusion is like proclaiming War with an Air of Friendship, which together with the Vulgarness of your Style, has forced from me this plain Defence, to assure you, that if your real Intentions are Just and Honourable, I am in no Pain for the Consequence; if otherwise, I am above being Frighted by an ungenerous Enemy; for as I have given no Cause for such Usage, so your Groundless Resentment will not lose me a Minutes Rest. Consider therefore what you want, don't Ruffle your Temper;

' per ; but Compose your self, and go to
' Sleep. I am,

' Your humble Servant,
' Richard Coxeter

P. S. That you might believe I had not forgot-
ten you, as soon as I had Leisure from more
important Business, I was willing to answer
every Part of yours; this being the last
I shall trouble my self, or you with of any
kind in this Controversy.

By these several Letters, it plainly appears
how falsely Mr. Frederick has represented the
Matter, both as to the Substance of Mr. Len-
thal's first Letter to Mr. Coxeter, and Mr. Cox-
eter's Answer thereto; and Mr. Coxeter humbly
hopes, that it cannot be pretended, that in his
first Letter he offered any Incivility to Mr. Len-
thal, and that his other Letters will not be thought
unbecoming him, if the Provocations given by
Mr. Lenthall both by abusive Words, Threats
and Letters, be duely Weighed.

VI. Mr. Lenthall and Mr. Frederick being dis-
pleased at this Reply. another Expedient was
found out by some of the Party to abuse Mr.
Coxeter; and to that End his Letters were inter-
cepted at the Wisney Post Office, and, as is be-
lieved, many of them opened and read, and one
of them from his Wife, dated the First of March
1711 kept; and the 13th of March Mrs. Coxeter
received a Scandalous LIBEL, as a pretended
Answer to her Letter, written in a feigned Hand,
(as is supposed by Comparison of Characters)
by one of the last mentioned Gentlemen; where-
by the Author shewed how well he and his Ac-
complices (for there is a Club or Confederacy
of these worthy Gentlemen) could frame palpable

Lies

lies out of Nothing, which makes Mr. Coxeter
 the less wonder at the Impudent and Notorious
 Falseness of Mr. Frederick's Representations ;
 which, as well as the aforesaid Libel, have, no
 doubt, been contrived and cook'd up by the Par-
 ty. It would better become all that Gang, but
 especially one of them, to employ the Cunning
 of his Talent about serious Truths, and by a
 Life and Actions agreeable to his Profession,
 which hitherto he has Polluted by the most Vil-
 laneous Behaviour) shew, that 'tis possible, even
 for the worst of Sinners to Repent ; and be him-
 self a leading Example in his Conversation, lest
 he become a Stumbling Block to those he pre-
 tends to Instruct. What is before said of Inter-
 cepting Mr. Coxeter's Letters, is not a bare Sur-
 mised Suspicion, or Jealousy ; but notwithstanding the Odi-
 ousness of such an Action, in every ones Opinion,
 is a flagrant Truth ; for the Behaviour of the
 said Post master being Examined before seven-
 teen Justices of the Peace at several Times, it
 was fully proved by the Affidavits of Two of his
 Servants, by One especially, whose Business was
 to fetch in and carry out the Letters, that the
 said Post-master had several Times kept in his
 Hands News Letters belonging to several Per-
 sons (which he had no Licence to open or keep)
 and never let them have their said Letters ; but
 ordered his Servants to deny, that they had any
 such Letters that Post ; and this was, because the
 said Post-master kept a Publick House, and to
 avoid the Charge of paying for the News, he
 kept one Person's News one Post, another the
 next, and so on by turns, that they might not too
 often be disappointed, and so discover him. That
 the said Post-master and his Wife, and one Johnson
 (a Fellow of a most vile and scandalous Character)
 were very Intimate ; that the said Johnson was of-
 ten admitted into the Office without any other Per-
 son

son present, but the Post-master, and was permitted to inspect and sort the Letters, and sometimes to open and seal up the Bag by himself for the Post-master; and said he had Reason to believe, that the Post-master permitted him to open and read many Letters in private for he knew, that *Johnson* had several Times broken the Seals of Letters belonging to several Persons, just in the Middle, and then had artfully opened them, read them and closed them again with an hot Tobacco Pipe, so as it was hard to be discovered; that the said Post-master and *Johnson*, had frequently Practised this Method of opening and sealing Letters, in the Witness's Presence; but if other Company came in, they would fold up and hide the Letters, that they might not be discovered, and then Laugh together at what they had seen; that the Post-master had delivered to him several Letters, which he believed had been so broke open, to be carried as they were directed, with Orders, that in case any Fault was found with the Seals, he should not enter into a Dispute about it, but get his Postage Money and come away; that the way of opening those Letters that were Sealed with Wax, was with an hot Tobacco Pipe, and by wetting those that were Sealed with Wafers. That the said Post-master had frequently kept several Persons Letters whom he names, and Mr. *Coxeter's* in particular, One, Two, or Three Posts after they came to his Hands, and ordered him, in case of any Complaint, to abate the Postage Money. That *Johnson* was seldom absent from the Office on Post Nights, but would come in as soon as the Letters came in, and had stayed there very late at Nights, after all Company had been gone out of the House, and after the rest of the Family had been in Bed several Hours: That he had fre-

quent

uently seen him, and *Johnson*, in his Presence,
 turn several Letters by pulling out the Folds at
 both Ends without breaking the Seals, and read
 them side-ways, and then fold them in again, and
 Whisper and Laugh with each other; That several
 Country People have Quarrelled with the Post-
 master about their Letters being kept and opened;
 and, then he would Chide and Curse the Depo-
 nent, and lay the Fault on him in their Presence,
 and when they were gone, would bid him take
 no Notice of what he had said to him Angrily,
 or that he only said it to satisfy the Persons com-
 plaining; That the Post-master offered him Mo-
 ney, and other Rewards, not to swear the Truth
 against him; That the Post-master had a Ring
 of many Seals, of different sorts, wherewith he
 used to seal such Letters as he had opened, that
 were not Sealed with Coats of Arms. There
 were many other Things proved, sufficient to
 satisfy any one, of the Post-master's and *Johnson*'s
 Practices, and particularly, that *Johnson* had
 the remarkable Method of Counterfeiting any
 Coat of Arms, by first Oiling it, and then taking
 the Impression in Wax, and then Oiling the Wax,
 and making the Impression again upon the Seal of
 the Letter, which served their Purpose effectually,
 by the Help of an hot Tobacco Pipe; and this
 was proved upon *Johnson*, by the Minister of the
 Parish. It was also proved by Mr. *Coxeter*'s Ser-
 vant, that the Letter before mentioned to be in-
 tercepted, was put into the *Witney* Post Office;
 and it could not reasonably be thought, that it
 should afterwards come into the said *Johnson*'s
 Hands, as will hereafter appear, and as he him-
 self owned upon his Oath, without the Privity
 and Concurrence of the Post master, encouraged
 by Mr. *Frederick* and his Party, as will appear by
 the Sequel. The Depositions at large now lye

before the Commissioners of the General Post Office, as the same were taken before the Recorder of *Oxon*, besides other Proofs.

VII. At the *Easter Sessions* 1711, Mr. *Lentball* in a very gross Manner, abused Mr. *Coxeter* before several Gentlemen, after Dinner; and Challenged him, and Threatned to Beat him. And that the Party might be all of a Piece, Mr. *Frederick* seeing Mr. *Coxeter's* Wife, in Company with one of the Vicars of *Bampton* and his Wife, and another Gentlewoman, as they were taking an Evening's Walk without the Town, on the Fifth of *May* following, came out of his Way about a Furlong, on purpose to Abuse and Assault them, giving them very scurrilous Language, and Assaulting, Jostling, and Beating both Mrs. *Coxeter* and the Vicar, in so scandalous a Manner, that 'tis scarce credible, that one who pretends to the Name of a Gentleman, or even a Title to Humanity, should so much swerve from both; calling Mr. *Coxeter* (tho' absent, as has been usual with him in most Companies) all the Rogues and Villains he could utter, and threatening them to that Degree, that they feared he intended them further Mischief, saying to the Vicar, *Sirrah pull off your Gown, and go with me behind that Hedge, and I will shew you what I will be at; and threatned to use him worse wherever he met him; for which base Action, upon the said Vicar's Oath, he was obliged to find Sureties for the Peace.* He also, very often told Mrs. *Coxeter*, *He wanted to meet her Husband, to Foot him and to Kick him, and that he wanted to meet him by himself; for which base and unmannerly Action of Mr. Frederick's towards Mrs. Coxeter, Mrs. Coxeter brought his Action, but has not yet try'd it; and for this it is, that Mr. Coxeter is said to have carryed on several Vexatious and Litigious Suits*

Suits against him, for Mr. Coxeter never had any other, unless those can be justly esteemed to be his Suits, wherein he has advised as a Counsel; for he never was an Attorney, or Clerk to one. Had Mr. Coxeter been forward to load his Adversaries with Suits, he has had frequent Handles, that he might have laid hold on; One advantageous One in particular against Mr. Lenthal, and such as lately joined with him in filling up, and granting about Fifty illegal Licences, being not Stamped pursuant to the Statute, whereby they Forfeited Thirty Pounds between the Two Justices and their Clerk, for each Licence; had Mr. Coxeter done so, he has Reason to think, he had not been spared; but he leaves the Informing Part to Mr. Frederick. Some little Time before this, Mr. Coxeter going to the House of Mr. Snell, met Mr. Frederick and Mr. Edmonds (the Vicar whom Mr. Frederick beat, as is above-mentioned) there; who being in a Dispute, and Mr. Coxeter interposing in a Matter relating to himself, Mr. Frederick according to his known Talent, gave Mr. Coxeter very abusive and provoking Language, with an Hint of a Challenge: Mr. Coxeter asked him what he meant, and bad him speak Plain, Mr. Frederick said, *That if it was not for Mr. Coxeter's Commission of the Peace, he would soon put an End to the Controversy; and said, lay aside your Commission, and I will soon tell you what I will be at;* Mr. Coxeter told him, that he could not do, but assured him, he would make no use of it against him, or to that Effect; and thereupon, Mr. Frederick bad Mr. Coxeter come out behind the Church, or into Mr. Dewe's Grounds, with the Weapon he sometimes wore, and then he would shew him what he would be at; his declaring that he wanted to meet Mr. Coxeter by himself, as before

is mentioned, together with the manner of his Behaviour to Mr. *Coxeter*, and all his Family on all Occasions, sufficiently shews him filled with Malice, insomuch, that Mr. *Coxeter* has Reason to believe, he would willingly Murther him, if he had a fair Opportunity to escape unhurt himself; nor is this an uncharitable Suggestion, as will appear in the Conclusion of this Narrative. Such Persons regardless of what they say or do have a great Advantage over those who think nothing so mean as to be Guilty of a base Action, even towards an Enemy. But 'tis by such Unchristian Methods, Mr. *Frederick* and his Party hope to support their unwarrantable Actions, having learnt Bully-like to Hector, with as little Edge to Fight as any Man, of which frequent Instances might be given; but they have not, or shall thereby terrify Mr. *Coxeter* from doing his Duty.

The Tenth of May both Mr. *Horde*, and the aforesaid Vicar of *Bampton*, received each of them a Letter, very much Abusing them, and what was written in the Cases, and in each Case was inclosed, a Copy of Mrs. *Coxeter's* Letter (of the First of March) to her Husband, which had been so intercepted; and the same Letter turn'd into Doggerel Verse, together with Copies of the aforesaid LIBEL. The Cases by Comparison of Hands are supposed to be written in feigned Hand by Mr. *Frederick*, and the Copy of Mrs. *Coxeter's* Letter and the Libel written by one *Lodowick Horsington* of *Witney*, a Common Hackney Writer, (then much employed by Mr. *Frederick*) who being Examined owned it; and before Mr. *Jordan*, on the Third of June following, deposed upon Oath, that *Johnson* the Apothecary of *Witney* (a worthy Crony of Mr. *Frederick's*) brought him the Originals to transcribe, and paid him

him for his Copies, and took them away again ; and 'tis not to be questioned, but Mr. *Frederick* employed *Johnson* so to do, and paid him again ; for under the Copies of Mrs. *Coxeter's* Letter (in the same Hand with the scandalous Cases) was Written, that the Original was in a Gentleman's Hands to be seen, it desired ; and Mr. *Frederick* himself told Mrs. *Coxeter*, he had seen her Letter, and repeated Part of the Contents of it, at the Time when he Beat her ; and as is believed, still has it in his Custody ; and Mr. *Coxeter* has been informed, that Mr. *Lenthal* made himself so far a Party in that matter, as to shew Mrs. *Coxeter's* Letter, or the Copy of it, to several Persons, and particularly to one Gentleman, who very Honourably refused to see it, telling Mr. *Lenthal*, it ill became a married Man so to do, who would very unwillingly have his own Wife's Letters so exposed ; but Mr. *Lenthal* would read it to him against his Will. Besides the aforesaid Abuses offered to Mr. *Coxeter* and his Wife by Mr. *Frederick*, that he might not fail of shewing his inveterate Malice to Mr. *Coxeter* upon all Occasions, he has frequently, long since the making of his Representations, as well as before, in a scurrilous and abusive Manner (natural to him) fallen upon, and abused Mr. *Coxeter's* Youngest Son, a Boy of about Fourteen, almost whenever he has met him ; sometimes threatening to beat him, and once told him he would, if he durst, and this without any previous Affront offered, or Provocation given to him by the Child ; herein laying open his Malice and great Folly together, by setting himself against a Child, who being naturally of a brisk Temper, in return for his Favours, has generally confounded him with his Repartees, to Mr. *Frederick's* wonderful Reputation ; and he

(like

(like his other Accusations against Mr. *Coxeter*) has also imputed this as a Crime of the Father's Charging Mr. *Coxeter* with directing his Son to meet Mr. *Frederick*, and give him provoking Language, on purpose to urge Mr. *Frederick* to beat him; that thereby Mr. *Coxeter* might get Cause of Action against him, tho' the Child never was the Aggressor; but this is like the Falshood of his invented Representations, and induces Mr. *Coxeter* to believe, that it would be next to a Miracle to hear him speak Truth. 'Tis probable, that Mr. *Frederick* had such vain Hopes as to imagine, that his Representations (being attested by unexceptionable Witnesses as he is pleased to call those, who were (some of them) concerned as Parties with him in the Abuses offered to Mr. *Coxeter* and others) would be credited, and their Request granted, by the Persons of Honour to whom they have been presented, without any further Enquiry, or giving Mr. *Coxeter* an Opportunity to vindicate himself, in which Case they might have obtruded their own Inventions upon the World for Truths, and Mr. *Coxeter* might have suffered in the Opinions of such as were Strangers to him, by the Baseness of their slanderous Reports, and yet would never have known, but by common Fame, who had done him the Injury, or what to charge his Enemies withal; but Mr. *Coxeter* dares appeal to the Voice of the Country where he lives, and is well known, whether Mr. *Frederick's* Representations carry with them so much as the Probability of Truth, and whether all his own Actions have not always been agreeable to his Professions of Justice and Mercy; 'twere to be wished his Adversaries Characters stood on the like Foundation. Mr. *Coxeter* would Rejoice, as well for their sakes as his Country's, if he was not able to give pregnant

Proofs

Proofs in many Instances, of some of their unjust, arbitrary, partial, oppressive, and illegal proceedings, some of which have been so gross and flagrant, that they are obvious to the meanest Judges; and the whole Neighbourhood Rings of the Baseness of some of their oppressive Actions, in their publick and private Capacities.

VIII. The 19th Day of *November* 1712, about Nine in the Morning, one Mr. *George Fenwick*, an Apothecary of *Winney*, came to Mr. *Coxeter's* House, (in a very mortified Condition, his Face all over Black, much Swelled, terribly Bruised, Wounded and Bloody, his Cloaths bloody, the Whites of his Eyes all like Blood, his Head Swelled, bruised, and bound up, and Bruised in several Parts of his Body) and asked for Mr. *Coxeter*; and being brought to him, he told him, that he was come to him for Justice, to be done him against Mr. *Frederick*, who had Beaten him the Day before, in that barbarous Manner; and had taken from him a Testimonial of his Character and good Behaviour, and Four or Five Shillings in Money; and desired Mr. *Coxeter's* Warrant against him, to oblige him to find Sureties for the Peace; for that he feared by Mr. *Frederick's* Threatnings, and the Injuries he had already done him, he intended to Murther him, or do him some further great Mischief. Mr. *Coxeter* having very little Knowledge of the Man, and knowing that he had lived with *Johnson* (Mr. *Frederick's* Croney) suspected this might give occasion to make a further Quarrel between him, and Mr. *Frederick* and his Party: And therefore told Mr. *Fenwick*, that there being misunderstandings between him and Mr. *Frederick*, he did not care to be concerned in the Matter; for that his Justest Actions would be imputed to him as Crimes, or to that Effect; and

and desired him to go to some other Justice. Mr. Fenwick seemed much disturbed at this Answer, and said, *Sir, I have a Right to demand the Protection of the Law for my Person, and must insist on it, that you take my Oath against Mr. Frederick, and oblige him to find Sureties; and added, If you deny to do me Justice, I shall find it no where: for Mr. Lenthal was a Party in the Abuse against me, and I shall be defeated where-ever I go else, either for want of Courage, or Will to do me Right, or to that Effect.* Mr. Coxeter (considering the mortified Spectacle then before him) complied, and took his Information upon Oath, importing — *That he, having been invited by the Countess of Abingdon, to come and Dine at Caswell where he pleased, went thither the 18th of November; that as he went he met Mr. Frederick in the way, who having a Gun in his Hand, called to Mr. Fenwick, saying, You Fellow in the Boots, and held up his Gun at his Shoulder, and presented it against Fenwick, as if he intended to Shoot him. That Fenwick went on his Way to Caswell, and stay'd there, and Dined in Company with Mr. Wroughton, Junior; Mr. Ekyns Minister of Burford; Mr. Eden and Mr. Denman. That after Dinner he went into another Room where were Francis Wroughton, Philip Wenman and John Lenthal, Esquires, Mr. Wroughton, Junr, Mr. Eden, Mr. Ekyns, Mr. Denman, Mr. Frederick, Mr. Sommers, and one William Oliver. That he had not sat down, before Mr. Wroughton told him, he must go to his Lady; That he went to her, who thanked him for his Care of her Sick Servants in her Absence. That he had some Discourse with the Countess, about the Evil Practices of the Post-master of Witney, and his Accomplices, in intercepting, opening and keeping Letters, and other Abuses in that Office,* which

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which *Fenwick* told her, he thought had been fully proved. That, when he parted from her, he desired a Servant to fetch his Cane out of the Gentlemen's Room, who returning told him he must go into the Company. That he went in and then desired to be excused, and very much pressed that they would permit him to go away; but they forced him to stay, and to sit next to *Mr. Lentbal*, near the Fire, and then told him, they had drank all the Healths of the Company, and for each Health had put one of their Glasses into a great Glass for him to drink, which he refused, fearing they had a Design to fuddle him; That then they brought another Glass holding about half the quantity, which they forced him to drink to the Healths of the Company; after which he drank other small Glasses to the Queen, the Church and present Ministry. That during all that Time *Mr. Frederick*, *Mr. Lentbal*, *Mr. Eden* and *Mr. Ekyns*, much reflected on and abused him, with currilous Language and abusive Names, and *Mr. Frederick*, called him *Rogue*, *Rascal* and *Scoundrel*, and charged him with Cheating *Mr. Johnson*, whilst he had been his Assistant. That thereupon *Fenwick*, took out of his Pocket a Testimonial of his Honesty, Sobriety and Ability in his Business, which had been signed by many Persons of Worth and Credit, saying, that had he deserved so ill a Character, he should not have had such a Testimonial. That *Mr. Frederick*, desired to see it, pretending he would Sign it, and when he had it he wrote in it some abusive Words concerning *Fenwick*, of which *Scoundrel* was one, and then gave it him again. That he pressed several Times for leave to go away, but they forced him back again. That several Times *Mr. Lentbal*, *Mr. Eden* and *Mr. Ekyns* pushed away his Chair, as endeavouring to throw him in the Fire, insomuch that

that *Mr. Francis Wroughton* desired them not to abuse him in his House. That at last he rose up resolving to go away; and then the said *William Oliver* told him, he should not go, till he had given him Satisfaction for affronting him, as he pretended. That as he was going away, *Mr. Frederick* in a violent and furious Manner (others of the Company assisting him) assaulted and beat *Mr. Fenwick*, threw him on the Ground, and kept him down, about a Quarter of an Hour or more, during all which Time, he lay upon him, kept him down, beat and bruised him about the Head Face and Body, so violently, that he was very much hurt in those Parts, as appeared to the View, by the Blackness, Swelling and Bruises of his Eyes, Face, Nose, Lips, Head and Body, and by the Blood in several Parts about him, occasion'd only by *Mr. Frederick's* Beating, in so base a Manner, that he fear'd he should have been murther'd. *Mr. Francis Wroughton* being then out of the Room, and none of the rest of the Company endeavouring to help him, but rather encouraging *Mr. Frederick*; That while he was so kept down, *Mr. Frederick*, or some other Person, also took from him his Testimonial aforesaid, and four or five Shillings in Money, for he is sure he lost so much, with his Testimonial out of his Pocket. That at last, *Mr. Frederick* permitted him to rise up, and then *Mr. Wenman* bid him go about his Business. The said *Mr. Fenwick* also swore the Peace against *Mr. Frederick*. This Information was taken by Twelve a Clock: After Dinner, about Four a Clock, *Richard Avenel*, the Tythingman of *Witney* came to *Mr. Fenwick* with *Mr. Lembal's* Warrant, requiring him to go with him before *Mr. Dewe*; *Mr. Coxeter* directed him to go accordingly, which he did after *Avenel* had shew'd *Mr. Coxeter* his Warrant, which is very falsly

repre-

represented, for as soon as Mr. Coxeter had read it, he returned it without the least Scruple, only telling *Avenell*, that it being a General Warrant, he could hear it himself now they were before him, but would not. Mr. Fenwick thereupon went with him; *Avenell* left *Fenwick* in the Church-yard, and went himself to Mr. *Frederick's*, and *Fenwick* alone to Mr. *Dewe's*, and told him on that Occasion he came, and told him of the Abuse he had receiv'd, and said, that if he thought it to bind him over, that was the injured Person, he hoped he should not suffer for Want of Sureties till the next Morning; Mr. *Dewe* promised he should not; they waited at Mr. *Dewe's* half an Hour, and no Body coming to them, *Fenwick* being sore and ill with his barbarous Usage, desir'd Mr. *Dewe's* Leave to go away, promising to return the next Morning: Mr. *Dewe* consented, and set him out through his Garden, the nearest Way to Mr. *Coxeter's*, where he went again; soon after, *Avenell* being sent by Mr. *Frederick* and his friends, return'd to fetch Mr. *Fenwick*, who, having Mr. *Dewe's* Consent, refus'd to go; *Avenell* said it was more than Mr. *Dewe* could justify, to give him Leave; upon which, Mrs. *Coxeter* (being present) said these or the like Words, You are an impudent Fellow, why don't you tell the Justice so? Don't he know his own Business? None else of Mr. *Coxeter's* Family saying any thing to him, but on telling him, where Mr. *Fenwick* was, and calling him in from the Garden, but Mrs. *Coxeter* knew not that he was return'd, when *Avenell* enquired of her for him: *Avenell* went away, and Mr. *Fenwick* being ill and sore, and it being dark Night, desir'd Mrs. *Coxeter* to give him Leave to be there that Night; she order'd a Servant to make him a Bed, purely in Charity to him in that Condition, and he went up to Bed, when

presently the Tythingman came again, and by Mr. *Coxeter's* Order, he was conducted into Mr. *Fenwick's* Chamber, and saw him in Bed, and was told, he might take him out of his Bed if he pleas'd: But Mr. *Coxeter* did not see, or talk with him either of the two last Times of his Coming, he being in his Study, and not coming out at all to him, which will be attested by several of the Family, if needful; for which Reason it cannot be supposed, that what *Avenell* has sworn, can possibly be true, concerning Mr. *Coxeter*, nor is any other Part than as above mentioned true of Mrs. *Coxeter*, and she only said he was impudent, because he affirmed, that Mr. *Dewe* could not give Mr. *Fenwick* Leave till the next Day; but the manner how *Avenell's* Information was taken by Mr. *Lenthal* will appear from the Certificate of the Minister and other Inhabitants of *Witney*, who had it from *Avenell* upon his own Confession; whereby it appears, that *Frederick* and *Ekyns* who were Parties in abusing *Fenwick*, and *Johnson* their Accomplice, took that Information, and in a manner forced the Fellow's Consent thereto, by threat'ning him with a Goal for letting *Fenwick* escape, as they pretended. Which Certificate is as follows, viz.

WE the Minister and other Inhabitants of *Witney* in the County of *Oxon*, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby certify whom it may concern, that on Tuesday the Thirteenth Day of *October*, Anno Dom. 1713, we being all present, and sending for *Richard Avenell* of *Witney* aforesaid, did then ask him concerning his serving of a Warrant on Mr. *George Fenwick* of *Witney*, Apothecary, on the Nineteenth Day of *November* last past, and concerning all that had been sworn by the said *Richard Avenell*, on the

Twenty

Twenty first Day of November last, before *John Lenthal*, Esq; relating to Mr. *Coxeter* and his Family, and the said *Richard Avenell* was desir'd to give us an Account of the whole Transaction, which he did in Substance as follows, viz. — That he the said *Avenell* receiv'd the said Mr. *Lenthal's* Warrant against the said *Fenwick*, from the Hands of Mr. *Johnson*, Apothecary in *Witney*, who told him he must immediately serve it at his Peril, saying, that Mr. *Fenwick* was then at Home, and that he went accordingly and found the said *Fenwick* in Bed, in a very bad Condition, with Blood and Bruises, and told Mr. *Fenwick* that he had such Warrant against him, but that it was his Opinion, that Mr. *Frederick* and his Friends cry'd Whore first, and that he advis'd Mr. *Fenwick* to go and inform against the said Mr. *Frederick* before some Justice of the Peace, for the Abuse he had receiv'd from the said *Frederick*; he further said, that the said *Johnson*, and also Mr. *Frederick* and Mr. *Wroughton* told him that he must carry the said *Fenwick* before no other Justice but Mr. *Dewe*, and he own'd that when he went to *Bampton*, he first went to Mr. *Frederick's* House, and receiv'd all his Instructions from him and the said *Johnson*; he also own'd, that when he had shewn his Warrant to Mr. *Coxeter*, he return'd it without any Difficulty; and that the said Mr. *Coxeter* only saw the said *Avenell* the first Time he was at the said Mr. *Coxeter's* House, mentioned in the said Information; and that the said Mr. *Coxeter* gave the said *Avenell* never an ill Word, and directed Mr. *Fenwick* to go with him to Mr. *Dewe's*, which he did; he said, that being disappointed of his Prisoner by Mr. *Dewe's* letting him go before he return'd thither: He went twice more to Mr. *Coxeter's*; that the first Time *Fenwick*

refused to go with him, saying, he had Mr. *Dewe's* Leave; and the last Time he saw him in Bed, but thought he had seen him below Stairs after he was there that last Time: That he is sure Mrs. *Coxeter* said he was an impudent Fellow, or Rascal, when he said that Mr. *Dewe* could not give the said *Fenwick* Liberty 'till the next Day: That Mr. *Frederick*, *Johnson*, Mr. *Wroughton* and Mr. *Wenman* all threaten'd him to send him to Goal for letting Mr. *Fenwick* escape, as they pretended, and order'd him to go to *Burford* to Mr. *Lentbal's* to make a Return of his Warrant, the Twenty first of *November* last; and that when he came there, he believ'd the said Mr. *Fenwick* follow'd him to know what Mr. *Lentbal* had to say to him on his Warrant; but said that he was taken up two or three pair of Stairs, he thinks that he might be out of the Way, and not see the said Mr. *Fenwick* there: He further said, that the said Examination or Information was written by Mr. *Ekyns* the Minister of *Burford*, and that he was examined by him, Mr. *Frederick*, and Mr. *Johnson*, who were all present and examined him, and that Mr. *Lentbal* was not there until the said Information was finish'd; and that they threaten'd him that he should be sent to Goal for suffering Mr. *Fenwick* to go away from Mr. *Dewe's*, and that afterwards he went down Stairs and then Mr. *Lentbal* read over the Information and signed it. Witness our Hands, the said thirteenth Day of *October*, Anno Dom. 1713.

Knighly Wilson, Minister.
Robert Eeles, Bayliff of *Wirney*.
William Tounsend.
Henry Brysn.
Robert Palmer.
John Tounsend.

Nicholas Shorter.
John Cowel.
William Bristow.
John Baker.
Peter Willer.

The

The next Morning, viz. the Twentieth of November, Mr. Coxeter sent Mr. Fenwick to Mr. Dewe, to know if he had any thing to say to him on the Warrant; who answer'd, he had no Warrant left with him, and had nothing to say. Mr. Fenwick returning, told Mr. Coxeter this, who then look'd on that Warrant as intended only to amuse and affright Mr. Fenwick, and under the Pretence of complaining first, to prevent all Complaints of Fenwick's, and that Justice might not be done him. Mr. Fenwick then making fresh Instances to Mr. Coxeter for a Warrant against Mr. Frederick; Mr. Coxeter refus'd it, but wrote Mr. Frederick a Letter, acquainting him what Mr. Fenwick had sworn, and desiring he would appear and find Sureties without a Warrant; to this Answer was brought, that Mr. Coxeter should have an Answer when Mr. Frederick was awake; Mr. Coxeter staid till Twelve a Clock at Noon, and then sent his Servant to desire to know Mr. Frederick's Answer, which was brought, That Mr. Frederick desired no such Civility from Mr. Coxeter, neither did he care for any: Upon this, uncivil Answer, Mr. Coxeter, sent his Warrant (the only special one he singly ever granted) Which Warrant was as follows, viz.

Oxon ff. *To the Constables and Tythingmen of Bampton and Weald, in the said County, and every of them, And also to the Keeper of the Goal or Castle of Oxford.*

WHereas George Fenwick of the Burrough of Witney in the said County, Apothecary, hath on the Day before the Date hereof made Oath before me, That upon the 18th Day of this Instant November, John Frederick of Bampton aforesaid, Gent. did assault, and in a barbarous Manner,

ner, beat and bruise him the said *George Fenwick*, by throwing him down on the Ground, and giving him many Blows on the Head, Face and Body, insomuch, that the said *George Fenwick* fear'd he should have been murther'd; and also that the said *John Frederick* or some of his Accomplices, did then take from him, the said *George Fenwick*, a Testimonial sign'd by several Persons, attesting the Character of him the said *George Fenwick*, and four or five Shillings in Money; and further, that the said *George Fenwick* is afraid that the said *John Frederick* will beat, wound, maim or kill him, or do him some further bodily Harm; and hath therefore pray'd Surety of the Peace against him (and forasmuch as the said *John Frederick* hath refus'd or neglected to appear before me, upon Notice given him by Letter of the said Complaint). These are therefore in Her Majesty's Name to command you to cause the said *John Frederick* to come before me at my House in *Weald* aforesaid, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, this present Day, to find sufficient Security as well for his personal Appearance before Her Majesty's Justices, at the next Assizes or General Goal Delivery, to be holden for this County of *Oxon*, there and there to answer the Premisses, and to abide and do what shall be enjoyn'd him by the Court, as also in the mean Time, to keep the Queen's Majesty's Peace towards Her said Majesty and all her Liege People, and especially towards the said *George Fenwick*: And if he shall refuse so to do, that then immediately you do convey or cause to be conveyed, the said *John Frederick*, unto the common Goal or Castle of *Oxford* aforesaid, and deliver him safely to the Keeper thereof; commanding you also, the aforesaid Keeper, to receive the said *John Frederick* into your Custody, and him there to keep, until he shall find such

Security

Security as aforesaid, and hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal the 20th Day of November, *An. Dom. 1712.*

Richard Coxeter.

Mr. *Frederick* being serv'd with this Warrant, came to Mr. *Coxeter's* House about Five in the Evening, together with Mr. *Wroughton*, Mr. *Wen-*
man and Mr. *Sommers*: Mr. *Coxeter* coming to them, told Mr. *Frederick*, that he suppos'd he had seen, by his Letter and Warrant, what Mr. *Fen-*
wick had sworn against him, and that he suppos'd he was come with those Gentlemen to be his Sureties: Mr. *Frederick* answer'd (scornfully) *And I'm come to wait on your Worship accordingly*; and added, *viz. You may go on with your Spleen, but I shall find no Sureties*; Mr. *Coxeter* ask'd what he meant, and if his Spleen made Mr. *Frederick* beat Mr. *Fenwick*, and told him, he hoped he would better consider it; and if not, the Queen's Authority should not suffer in Mr. *Coxeter's* Hands, nor to that Effect. Then Mr. *Frederick* often repeated these or the like Words, *viz. I tell you, you may go on with your Spleen*, and still refus'd to find Sureties. Whereupon, Mr. *Coxeter* told the Con-
table, that he must pursue his Warrant, and carry the Gentleman to *Oxford*. Upon this, Mr. *Fre-*
derick, in an insolent and abusive Manner, reflected on and abus'd Mr. *Coxeter* and his Wife, and challeng'd his Son; which, Mr. *Coxeter* bad him take no Notice of; but told Mr. *Frederick*, that there having been some Misunderstandings be-
tween them, therefore he would take no Notice of his rude Behaviour to him and his Family at that Time; otherwise he would have bound him to his good Behaviour as he deserv'd. During this Debate, *J—— R——* in the Represen-
tation mention'd, was standing at the Door very civilly

civilly with the Servants, and Mr. *Fredeecick*, without any Provocation, called him Goal-Bird, and began to abuse his Wife, and Mrs. *Coxeter*, charging the latter with abusing the Constable, which was notoriously false; thereupon, *F—— R——* came into the Room and said, *That if all their Records were search'd, some other Person would be found a Goal-Bird*; whereupon Mr. *Frederick*, thinking perhaps, that he meant him, answer'd, *That F—— R—— was a Rogue, a Rascal and a Villain*; *F—— R——* reply'd, *He was none of those, but as well born and as honest a Man as Jack Frederick*; *that he had not marry'd another Man's Wife, nor lye with any Man's Wife but his own*; Mr. *Frederick* ask'd, *Who did?* And *F—— R——* bad him *Look in the Glass and he would see*. This in Substance was all that pass'd between them; nor was a Challenge given to Mr. *Frederick*, by *F—— R——*, tho' he and Mr. *Wroughton* afterwards attested it at the Quarter Sessions. Mr. *Coxeter* did not think himself oblig'd to reprimand *F—— R——* in this Case; the first Incivility offered was by Mr. *Frederick*, in making himself the Aggressor in the many Abuses given to Mr. *Coxeter* and his Family, and also to *F—— R——*, as if he was touch'd to the Quick, he ought to take it as the Consequence of his own Rudeness. *F—— R——* having been instrumental in discovering the villainous Practices of the *Winn* Post-master, and thereby was a sufferer, as Mr. *Coxeter* thought, in some Measure, on his Account was receiv'd some short Time at Mr. *Coxeter's* House, in Charity to his Family, which Mr. *Coxeter* hopes cannot be esteem'd a Crime. Mr. *Coxeter* is apt to believe, that if Mr. *Frederick* was accused for entertaining *John Matthews* (the reputed Father of two of the Bastard Children, mentioned in the first Certificate against *Matthews*) as

Domestick Servant for a whole Year, since he was guilty of that Lewdness; and other Servants since and at this Time, who have been guilty of the like Lewdness; he would answer, *That he would keep what Servants he pleased, or entertain whom he thought fit, without giving a Reason for so doing.* Mr. Frederick then also charged Mr. Fenwick with abusing him and all the Company at *Taswell*; whereupon he asked Mr. Wroughton, Mr. Wenman, and Mr. Sommers severally, if he had abused them, and they all said, he had not; nor did any Marks of any Assault or Abuse appear on Mr. Frederick, or was it once pretended, that Fenwick had given him one Blow, altho' he had beaten Fenwick almost blind. Mr. Coxeter, with much Patience, heard not only what Mr. Wroughton and Mr. Wenman said, but also bore Mr. Frederick's Insults; so far was he from refusing to hear what they had to say; nor did any of them offer the least Evidence, that Mr. Fenwick had began to provoke or abuse Mr. Frederick, or pretend to say, that Mr. Frederick had not grievously beaten Fenwick, which was too visible to be deny'd; on the contrary they own'd, that Mr. Frederick was the Person that had so beaten him, and that his Testimonial was lost; but said, none could imagine, that any of that Company would rob him of that, or his Money; but Mr. Wroughton own'd, that three or four Shillings were taken up in the Room the next Morning, by the Servants, which, Mr. Fenwick affirms, have not been yet restored to him. Mr. Wroughton seem'd to give Mr. Coxeter his Advice, what he thought proper to be done in that Case, by saying, that if he had been the Justice to act in that Matter, he would make Mr. Fenwick ask Mr. Frederick's Pardon, and so there should be an End of it: To which, Mr. Coxeter answer'd, *That he had no such Power, nor did* be

te think it just, if he had, to compel the Person injured
 to ask Pardon of him who had done the Wrong; he
 would rather advise, that Mr. Frederick should make
 Mr. Fenwick Satisfaction, or to that Effect. Mr.
 Frederick would not give Sureties before Mr. Co-
 eter, but went to Mr. Dewe's and there did it. The
 Next Morning, viz. the 21st of November, Mr.
 Fenwick sent to Avenell the Tythingman of Wim-
 bor, to offer himself to him, if he had any thing to
 say to him; but could not speak with him; for he
 as is supposed, was instructed by Mr. Johnson, to
 avoid him, and to go to Burford to return his
 Warrant, whither he went, above an Hour after
 Mr. Fenwick had sent to him; which Mr. Fenwick
 hearing, presently followed him, and came to Mr.
 Lenthal's House immediately after him, and found
 Mr. Lenthal in his Court, as Mr. Fenwick entered
 the Gate; but Mr. Lenthal went into his House
 thereupon, Mr. Fenwick desir'd one of the Servants
 to acquaint his Master, that he (Mr. Fenwick) was
 come thither in Obedience to his Warrant, and
 desir'd to speak with him; and this Message
 repeated two or three Times; and was answered
 that Mr. Lenthal was busie, and had nothing to
 say to him; but Mr. Fenwick understanding that
 Avenell the Tythingman was then in Mr. Lenthal's
 House, asked also for him, and told the Servant
 he wanted to speak with him, for that he had
 Warrant of Mr. Lenthal's against him the said
 Fenwick; but the Servant told him, if he was
 there, he was not then to be spoken with; and
 neither Mr. Lenthal or the Tythingman would ap-
 pear to Mr. Fenwick: Whereupon, Mr. Fenwick
 went to his Inn, and then sent his Landlord to
 acquaint Mr. Lenthal, that he was at the George
 in Burford, ready to obey his Commands; and the
 said Landlord brought him the like Answer, That
 Mr. Lenthal had nothing to say to him, being ve-
 bul

ie, or engaged, or to that Effect. It's pre-
 n'd, *Mr. Frederick* and his Assistants were then
 gag'd in Cooking up *Avenell's* Information a-
 gainst *Mr. Coxeter*, which they more rejoyc'd to
 procure against him, than they were solicitous to
 ve Justice, as they pretended, done upon *Mr.*
Fenwick. *Mr. Fenwick* stay'd all that Night at *Bur-*
wick, to attend *Mr. Lenthal's* Commands, but heard
 more from him; he went also the next Morning
 to *Mr. Lenthal's* House, and then was told, that
Lenthal was gone to hunting. About a Fort-
 night or three Weeks before this, *Mr. Fenwick*
 dined at *Casswell*, and was very civilly enter-
 n'd by *Mr. Wroughton*, and *Mr. Frederick* was
 en present; and *Mr. Wroughton* ask'd *Mr. Frede-*
 rick, why *Mr. Fenwick* had not been recommended
 to attend my Lord *Wenman* as his Gentleman,
 ing, it would have been an Advantage to his
 rdship; and *Mr. Frederick* pretended he did not
 nk of him; but *Mr. Fenwick* believes, it was ra-
 r because he thought it might have been a Dis-
 vantage to his Friend *Johnson*, who is his Lord-
 p's Apothecary: This Motion of *Mr. Wroughton's*,
 the Civility wherewith he treated *Mr. Fen-*
wick, is an Indication, that *Mr. Fenwick* bore no
 Character, in that Family, as is insinuated in
 Representation, but that the Character given
 him might not appear, *Mr. Fenwick* has been
 inform'd, that *Mr. Frederick* burnt the Testimo-
 ny before mentioned; but *Mr. Fenwick* having
 a Copy thereof, it is thought proper to be here
 inserted, viz.

WE whose Names are hereunto subscrib'd,
 do certify, that *Mr. George Fenwick* is a
 person of sober Life and Conversation, and has
 practiced Physick with great Success for some
 time in *Witney* and Parts adjacent, to our general
 Satis-

Satisfaction; and we do approve of him to be a
 Person of great Experience and Skill. Witness
 our Hands the 22d Day of April 1712.

*This Certificate was subscrib'd by the Ministers
 Bayliffs, Church-wardens and many other In-
 habitants of Witney and Places adjacent.*

Mr. Fenwick believes, that *Mr. Frederick* fell on
 him in the Manner before mention'd, in Part, be-
 cause he had underwritten the said Testimonial
 so basely; for he seem'd uneasy after he had done
 it, and very often requested *Mr. Fenwick* to let
 him have it again, but he refus'd it, and there-
 fore, when *Mr. Frederick* had him down, he took
 that Opportunity to force it from him; and af-
 terwards to burn it, that the Abuses which he
 had written under it, might not appear. 'Tis
 pretended, that when *Mr. Wenman* turn'd *Mr.*
Fenwick out of the Room (which is insinuated to
 be before his Beating, concerning which, the Re-
 presentation is silent) *Mr. Fenwick* burst open the
 Door again, and came behind *Mr. Frederick's*
 Chair, abusing him as before, which oblig'd him
 to rise and defend himself, &c. To this, *Mr. Fen-*
wick says, that he did endeavour to return civilly
 to demand his Testimonial and Money which
 had been taken from him, and not otherwise;
 but was so far from coming behind *Mr. Frederick's*
 Chair, or abusing him, that he was violently re-
 puls'd by the Company, and not permitted to
 go into the Room; and his Testimonial and Mo-
 ney being refus'd him, he told the Company he
 would go to a Justice of the Peace for Justice
 against them for this great Abuse; and then he
 went out to the Hall Door, where he met the
 Countess, and told her how he had been abused
 by *Mr. Frederick* and others of the Company, and

even

even by one of the Servants ; and desir'd, that she
 would be pleas'd to order a Servant to conduct
 him Home to *Winney*, or that he might have a
 Bed there, the latter of which she order'd, and
 seeming concern'd, that he had been so ill used ;
Mr. Frederick and others of the Company pretend-
 ed to her Ladyship, that *Mr. Fenwick* was drunk,
 and had abused all the Company, tho' no such
 Pretence is now made in the Representation, nor
 was it true in Fact. *Mr. Fenwick* perceiving, that
 it grew something lighter, and fearing further
 Mischief from *Mr. Frederick*, went away ; tho' it
 was a very cold snowy Night, and no Servant was
 permitted to conduct him Home. *Mr. Fenwick*
 having told them he would go to a Justice of
 the Peace to complain of this Outrage ; it was
 contriv'd to prevent it by a Warrant granted
 by *Mr. Lentshal* at *Mr. Frederick's* Request, tho'
 both the Justice and the pretended Complainant
 were Parties in that Outrage against *Mr. Fenwick*,
 and 'tis obvious enough, that the said Representa-
 tion must carry the Face of great Falshood with
 it, for 'tis very irrational to suppose, that *Mr.*
Fenwick (a single naked Man, something disabled
 in one of his Hands) who knew himself among
 many of his Enemies, who had vowed to ruin
 him, and make him leave the Country (he being
 then setting up his Trade, against their Favourite
Johnson) would offer to affront or challenge any
 Man in that Company, where *Mr. Lentshal* was
 present, and might have kept the Peace,
 and secured him, without the Formality of a
 Warrant ; and where he was sure to suffer, and
 have no Friend to witness the Truth for him,
 unless he was really mad ; in which Case, *Mr.*
Frederick did but expose his Folly to beat him
 The Manner of *Mr. Johnson's* bringing this War-
 rant to the Constable, his Earnestness to hav-
 H

it serv'd on *Mr. Fenwick* early the next Morning and the Constable's Confession upon that whole Matter, and other their Managements, sufficiently evince this Truth. To which, *Mr. Fenwick* further adds, That the Constable told him That it was his Opinion he ought to complain against them, and that *Mr. Frederick* complain'd first to prevent his Complaint; and that he then offer'd the Constable to go with him before *Mr. Lenthal* presently; to which the Constable answer'd, he was not in a Condition to go before any Justice; being so bruised, batter'd and bloody and said he might take his own Time, and go before any Justice, and says, that he never made any Appointment to go before *Mr. Dewe*, as is represented; but it seems rather, that the Constable was order'd to carry him before *Mr. Dewe* after he was at *Bampton*, where as he himself confesses, he receiv'd his Instructions from *Mr. Frederick*. The Constable also told *Mr. Fenwick* Landlord and Landlady where he lodg'd, that *Mr. Frederick* was resolved, that he would spend Five hundred Pounds, and others of the Company other Sums of Money, but that they would have *Mr. Fenwick* in a Goal, or make him leave the Country, that he might not set up his Trade against the said *Johnson*. It importeth *Mr. Johnson* to bring this to pass, if possible, for he knoweth *Mr. Fenwick* to be a Man of Skill and Experience having serv'd as a Journey-man some Years, under four eminent Apothecaries in *London*, after he was out of his Apprenticeship, had earnestly solicited him to live with him as his Assistant. *Mr. Fenwick*, after a while, consented so to do and then *Mr. Johnson* and his Friends recommended him to all their Acquaintance, who, as well as others, found him, by Experience, to be a Man of good Abilities; so that his Reputation was established

establish'd on all Sides; but *Mr. Johnson* was
 scarce esteem'd by any; so that if *Fenwick* set up,
 the Ruin of *Johnson's* Trade was the necessary
 Consequence of it; to which, *Johnson's* profligate
 Character would not a little contribute. *Mr.*
Fenwick liv'd thus with *Johnson* a Year and half,
 in which Time, he saw so much of *Johnson's* vil-
 lanous Practices with the Post-master of *Witney*,
 that through his Abhorrence thereof, he spoke his
 Thoughts pretty freely, and thereby disgusted *John-*
son and his Party; and having some Desire to
 leave *Johnson*, was requested and encouraged by
 the Neighbourhood, to set up there for himself.
Mr. Fenwick complying with their Desires, and
 removing himself from *Johnson*, and taking an
 Appartment at the *Crown* in *Witney*, *Mr. Johnson*
 took Umbrage thereat; and therefore it was
 contriv'd, if possible, to force *Mr. Fenwick* to
 leave *Witney*; and to that End, first, *Mr. Young*,
 in whose House (the *Crown*) he lodg'd, told *Mr.*
Fenwick, that he had a Message sent him, that he
 should not renew his Lease, unless he turn'd
Mr. Fenwick out of his House (Note, That House
 is held of the Lord *Wenman*, to whom *Mr. Freder-*
ick is Steward) and at his Request, *Mr. Fenwick*
 removed to another House: After this, he was
 threaten'd as above, and 'tis presum'd, this beat-
 ing him in so barbarous a Manner, was one of
 the last *Mediums* propos'd, to bring about those
 Ends. At the next Assizes, *Mr. Fenwick* preferr'd
 an Indictment against *Mr. Frederick*, for the Assault
 and Battery; but *Mr. Lenthal* went in and gave
 Evidence against the Queen, before the Grand-
 Jury (an unpresidented Attempt) for admitting
 whereof, the Foreman of that Grand-Jury, hath
 since express'd a great Concern; and thereupon,
 the Bill was not found. From all which, it may
 plainly appear, how the Party are link'd toge-

ther, how Justice has been perverted, and how little Foundation there has been for so base, so false and scandalous a Representation to be made against Mr. Coxeter, who has been set up, as a Mark to shoot at, by his Adversaries, that will stick at Nothing falsely and maliciously to blacken and abuse him; and he desires it may be observed, that all those who have so readily join'd in subscribing the said Representation, were Parties in the Abuse offer'd to Mr. Fenwick, and now appear as Witnesses, to cover the Baseness of their own Actions: Yet, he conceives, tho' the Party (as appears) have no Regard to Truth, they should have had so much Modesty and good Manners, as not to have obtruded their own invented Falshoods, on a Person of my Lord Abingdon's Worth, Honour and Goodness.

I The above-mention'd George Fenwick do Attest, that all the Facts before related, concerning the Abuse offer'd to me, and the Manner of it; and concerning Mr. Coxeter's and my own Behaviour and Conduct in that whole Affair; and all other Facts before related, are true in every Particular; and, that I do verily believe all the Suggestions before mention'd, relating to the same Affair, are also true; and this I am ready to attest upon Oath, if thereto required, Witness my Hand, the 24th Day of October, Anno Dom. 1713.

George Fenwick

After this, as a Confirmation of the Truth of the Narrative before mention'd, the said Mr. Fenwick the 4th of November following, made an Affidavit before Sir John Bennet, Serjeant at Law, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, a Copy whereof is as follows.

Mid. ss

Middlesex ss. *The voluntary Affidavit of George Fenwick of Witney in the County of Oxon, Apothecary, taken before Sir John Bennet, Knight, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the said County of Middlesex, the Fourth Day of November, Ann. Dom. 1713.*

WHO upon his Oath saith, that all the several Facts in the foregoing Narrative, to which this Deponent's *Affidavit* is annex'd (consisting of Five Sheets of Paper, to which he, this Deponent hath set his Hand) related, concerning the Abuses offer'd to him this Deponent, at *Caswell*, (in the said Narrative mention'd) by Mr. *John Frederick* and the other Persons therein named, and the Manner thereof, are true: And also, that all the other Facts therein mention'd to be done by this Deponent, on the several Days after this Deponent's receiving of the said Abuses, and concerning the several Facts done by Mr. *Coxeter*, on this Deponent's Request and Behalf, and concerning the Manner of the said Mr. *Frederick's* Behaviour towards, and Abuses offer'd to Mr. *Coxeter* and his Family, when he was brought before the said Mr. *Coxeter*, and concerning the said Mr. *Coxeter's* Behaviour towards him, and the other Gentlemen then with him, are also true in every Particular. And this Deponent doth verily believe, that there is nothing suggested in the said Relation concerning the Endeavours of Mr. *Johnson* and his Party to force this Deponent to leave *Witney*, and not to set up his, this Deponent's Trade, there,

The Narrative deliver'd to the Lord Chancellor, to which the original Affidavit was annexed, consisted of five Sheets of Paper.

but what is also agreeable to Truth ; and that the said *Johnson* solicited him this Deponent, to live with him the said *Johnson*, above a Year before this Deponent came to him. And this deponent saith, That what is also related, in the said Narrative, concerning Mr. *Coxeter's* Behaviour to the Constable or Tythingman of *Witney*, when he came to this Deponent with a Warrant, requiring this Deponent to go before Mr. *Dewe*, and concerning this Deponent's going to the said Mr. *Dewe's* House, and having his Consent to return again, and all other Matters concerning that Affair, are also true. And this Deponent saith That he this Deponent, was not deny'd to, or protected from the said Tythingman, by Mr. *Coxeter* or his Order, when the said Tythingman came to the said Mr. *Coxeter's* House the second Time, for this Deponent ; for that the said Mr. *Coxeter* did not then see or speak to the said Tythingman, or give any Orders concerning this Deponent, to the Knowledge or Belief of this Deponent ; but he this Deponent refus'd to go with the said Tythingman, to the said Mr. *Dewe's* House that second Time, only because the said Mr. *Dewe* had consented, that he this Deponent should depart untill the next Morning, to take Care of himself in that mortify'd Condition ; which, Mr. *Dewe* declared to this Deponent, he was very sorry to see, or to that Effect ; and not out of any Design to avoid Justice ; nor did this Deponent slip away from Mr. *Dewe's* House, under any Pretence of going to find Sureties. And this Deponent saith that the said Mr. *Coxeter's* Son, by his Order, as this Deponent believes, did conduct the said Tythingman up to this Deponent's Chamber, this Deponent being then (at his third Coming in Bed, very ill with Bruises, with Orders to take this Deponent out of his Bed again, if he

thought

thought fit ; but the said Tythingman well knowing in how very ill Condition this Deponent then was, did not require this Deponent to rise again, but went away. And this Deponent further saith, that he this Deponent did not call the said Mr. *Frederick*, Rogue, Rascal, or Scoundrel, as is falsely represented, tho' this Deponent was so barbarously abused by Mr. *Lenthal*, Mr. *Ekyns*, Mr. *Eden*, Mr. *Seymour Wroughton* and *William Oliver*, but especially by Mr. *Frederick*. And further saith, That when this Deponent (by the Servants Directions) went into the said Company at *Casswell*, the said Company were so far from being uneasy at it, or giving this Deponent any Hints to be gone, as is represented ; that they requir'd this Deponent to come into their Company, which this Deponent was unwilling to do at first ; and when this Deponent was there, he refus'd to sit down, 'till he was compell'd by Mr. *Lenthal* and others ; and when he this Deponent afterwards made many Attempts to leave them, they would not suffer him to go away, but forced this Deponent back into his Chair, and compell'd him, against his Will, to stay with them. And saith, That Mr. *Wenman*, in Mr. *Frederick's* Representation mention'd, did not turn this Deponent, out of the Room, or bid or desire this Deponent to be gone, before the said Mr. *Frederick* had first beaten and abused this Deponent ; and then, and not before, this Deponent endeavour'd to return civilly to demand his Testimonial and Money which had been taken from him (and is not yet restored, as in the Narrative is mention'd) and not otherwise ; but this Deponent was then so far from abusing Mr. *Frederick*, that he was violently repuls'd by the Company, and not permitted to go into the Room ; and was afterwards suffer'd to be further abused by one

one *Smith* a Servant in that Family; after all which, this Deponent immediately declared, that he this Deponent would go to Bampton, to Mr. *Coxeter*, to obtain his Warrant, in Order to have Justice done him; to prevent which, this Deponent believes the said Company contriv'd to send Mr. *Lentbal*'s Warrant for this Deponent. And this Deponent further saith, That when this Deponent had indicted the said Mr. *Frederick* at the then next Affizes, for the Assault and Battery on this Deponent, in the said Narrative mention'd; he this Deponent understanding that some of Mr. *Frederick*'s Friends had contrived that Mr. *Lentbal* should be called into the Grand Jury to give Evidence against this Deponent, or to invalidate this Deponent's Testimony; and being also sensible, that such Practice was illegal; this Deponent told the said Grand Jury, that the said Mr. *Lentbal* ought not to be admitted to give such Evidence before them in that Affair; for that the said Mr. *Lentbal* was not sworn, and was a Party in the said Abuse against this Deponent; and that he the said Mr. *Lentbal* was also liable to be indicted for the same, or to that, or the like Effect; and desired, that he might not be admitted to give such Evidence. Nevertheless the said Mr. *Lentbal* did go into the said Grand Jury, for the Purpose aforesaid, as soon as this Deponent was gone from the said Grand-Jury and was admitted to give such Testimony there altho' he was not sworn, as this Deponent hath heard and believes.

George Fenwick

Jurat 4to Die Novemb'

1713, coram me Jo. Bennet.

After the aforesaid Affidavit, the said Sir John Bennet sign'd the following Certificate, viz.

Do hereby Certify, That I have known the before-
 mention'd. Mr. George Fenwick for several
 years, and I do believe him to be a Person of a sober
 Life and Conversation, and of great Truth and Integrity.
 Witness my Hand, the 4th Day of November, 1713.

John Bennet.

Mr. Frederick in the Conclusion of his Repre-
 sentations, has further insinuated, as if Mr. Cox-
 eter was a corrupt Person, and had taken unjusti-
 fable Fees (as Bribes or the like) which Mr. Cox-
 eter abominates; but Mr. Coxeter has been in-
 form'd, that an Accident happen'd, which his Ad-
 versaries thought a fit Handle for them to lay
 hold on (as much as lay in their Power) to sup-
 port this Charge, viz. One of the Parishioners
 of Milton in the County of Oxon, having dispu-
 ted the Payment of his Tax to the Poor, upon
 pretence, that the Officers had misapply'd the
 publick Money; either upon his or the Officers
 complaint; or else at the Justices Motion *ex Officio*,
 the Matter came to be heard before Mr. Cole,
 who seeing ten Shillings charged in the Account,
 given as a Fee to Mr. Coxeter, for his Advice or
 Counsel, out of his great Readiness to serve and
 oblige Mr. Lenthal, soon communicated the pre-
 tended mighty Discovery to him; whereupon,
 the Officers were sent to, and requit'd to appear
 at the then next Sessions, viz. Trinity Sessions, 1713.
 there to make Oath of their giving of this Fee;
 but they knowing they had given the same very
 justly, for Mr. Coxeter's Opinion, in a Point of
 Law (except a poor ignorant Fellow, one Wakefield)
 refus'd to go; and whether any Warrant was sent
 to compel his Attendance, Mr. Coxeter knows not.
 At the said Sessions Wakefield was induc'd to swear,
 that

that *Mr. Coxeter* had taken ten Shillings as a Fee from the Overseers of the Poor of *Milton*, or the Attorney, relating to an Appeal made to the Court, from a Rate made for the Relief of the Poor of *Milton* aforesaid; and upon *Mr. Lenthall* or *Mr. Cole*'s earnest Motion, and *Mr. Lenthall*'s abusive Invektives against *Mr. Coxeter*, the following Order was then made, viz.

Oxon ff. *Sessio S^{ta} Trinitat' Anno Regine D^{ne} N^{ra} Annae nunc Regina Magna Britannia, &c. duodecimo.*

WHereas upon hearing an Appeal made to this Court, from a Rate made for the Relief of the Poor of *Milton*, in the Parish of *Shipston* under *Whichwood* in this County. It appeared upon Oath, that *Richard Coxeter*, Esq; one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, did take ten Shillings for a Fee from the Overseers of the Poor of *Milton* aforesaid, or the Attorney, relating to the said Appeal. This Court doth desire, That the said *Mr. Coxeter* will, upon Notice of this Order, attend at the next Sessions to be held for this County, to answer the said Charge.

Per Cur' Clerke.

A Copy of this Order being left at *Mr. Coxeter*'s House, he accordingly did attend at the next (viz. *Michaelmas*) Sessions, and defended himself against the said Charge, to the Effect following, viz.

As to the receiving ten Shillings for a Fee of *Mr. Brooks* the Attorney, for the said Parish of *Milton*, he own'd, and justify'd it as a Counsel, intitol'd to take Fees for his Advice in Matters of Law; and affirm'd, that the Case in Question

as such, and not as it was falsely represented in the Order, which says it was upon an Appeal from a Rate made, &c. For the Case will appear by the Sequel, to be quite otherwise; and that Mr. Coxeter never was apply'd to, or gave any Advice, or receiv'd any Fee for any such Advice in the Appeal in the said Order mentioned; for it appears upon the Face of the Order, that the said Appeal was heard at the *Trinity-Sessions*, 1713; whereas the Fee in Question, receiv'd by Mr. Coxeter, was about *Christmas*, 1711, and that Case was thus, *viz.* One *Matthew Hall*, some Years since, came to live in the Parish of *Finstock*, having no legal Settlement there; but his Brother or some other Friend gave a Bond of forty Pounds to indemnify that Parish, who upon that Condition receiv'd him; *Hall's* Family becoming numerous, and likely to be chargeable, the Person who gave the forty Pound Bond, paid it to the Officers of *Finstock*, who with that Sum and other Money, purchas'd an House for the said *Hall* in *Milton*, which it is said, cost fifty five Pounds: the Purchase was made (if Mr. Coxeter is truly inform'd) in *Hall's* own Name, but some Mortgage thereof or other Security given back to the Parish of *Finstock*. After this, some Disputes arose between the two Parishes, to which of the two *Hall* should belong (for both were weary of him) which at the End, was determin'd against *Finstock*, in regard the House was purchas'd with their Money, and not, *bona Fide*, by *Hall*; and thereupon *Finstock* gave their Certificate to *Milton*, owning *Hall* to be a Parishioner at *Finstock*; and upon that Certificate, *Hall* was permitted to live quietly at *Milton*, but being unable to maintain his Family, and asking Relief of *Milton*, they insisted that *Finstock* People were oblig'd to receive him again by Vertue of the said Certificate; hereupon, &c.

further

further Dispute arose, and Mr. *Brooks* the Attorney, concern'd for the Parish of *Milton*, believing that Certificate would indemnify their Parish, apply'd to Mr. *Coxeter*, as a Counsel, to advise him what Proof ought to be made of that Certificate for he was not certain but that the said Certificate, being allowed by two Justices, would be taken *pro confesso*, and that there might be no Need of any other Proof of the Execution of it, and Mr. *Coxeter* told him, That the Validity of the Certificate depended upon the due Execution of it, by the Officers of *Finstock*, which ought to be proved by the Witnesses, who saw and subscrib'd to such Execution thereof; for that the same was naught in the Foundation, the Allowance of the two Justices would not make it good and for this Advice (being a Point foreign to the Merit of the Cause in Question) Mr. *Coxeter*, as a Counsel, and not as a Justice of the Peace, receiv'd his Fee as he ought to do. To support Mr. *Coxeter* in this his just Defence, and to satisfy the Bench, that the Complaint against him made by the said Mr. *Lenthal*, was false, groundless and malicious; Mr. *Coxeter* then also produc'd the following Certificate, signed by the said Attorney and by the Churchwarden of *Milton*, and also the Affidavit of one Mr. *Powell*, attesting Mr. *Coxeter's* refusing of a much larger Fee in another Case than was to come before the Bench upon an Appeal.

The Certificate was as follows.

WE *Robert Brookes*, of *Milton* in the County of *Oxon*, Gent. and *John Baylies* of the same Place, Yeoman, do hereby certify whom it may concern, That there being Disputes between the Townships of *Milton* aforesaid, and *Finstock* in the said County, about the Settlement of one

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Matthew Hall and his Family, relating to a Purchase that had been made by the said *Mathew Hall*, and the said Township of *Finstock*, of a Cottage House in *Milton* aforesaid, and to a Certificate that had been given by the said Township of *Finstock*, owning the said *Mathew Hall* to be a legal Inhabitant there: We the said *Robert Brookes* and *John Baylies*, one as Attorney or Solicitor, and the other as Churchwarden of the said Township of *Milton*, together with one *Simon Wakefield* who was then one of the Overseers of the Poor of the same Place) did, about the latter End of *December*, or Beginning of *January*, in the Year of our Lord 1711, attend, *Richard Coxeter* of *Bampton* in the said County of *Oxon*, Esq; and desired his Opinion, as a Counsel, upon the following Point, viz. What Proofs we ought to make of the signing of the said Certificate by the Persons subscribing the same; for which, we gave the said Mr. *Coxeter*, ten Shillings for his Fee, as a Counsel and no otherwise. And this we are ready to attest upon Oath, if thereto requir'd. Witness our Hands, the 29th Day of *September*, Anno Dom. 1713.

Witness hereto

John Sandelands,
Richard Sandelands,

Robert Brookes,
John Baylies.

The Affidavit produc'd and read at the same Time, was as follows.

Oxon

Oxon ff.

The voluntary Affidavit of Fletcher Powell Gent. Collector of Her Majesty's Duty on Malt in Oxford Collection taken before me John Dewe Esq; one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Oxon, the Fifth Day of October, Anno Domini 1713.

WHO upon his Oath saith, That *John Mitchell*, late Supervisor of Her Majesty's Duties of Excise and Malt, having, in the Year 1711, as near as this Deponent can remember made a considerable Discovery of fraudulent Practices, used by three Malsters in *Long-Hamborough* in the said County of *Oxford*; *Mr. John Medows*, late Collector of Excise, by Order of the Commissioners of Excise, caused an Information to be laid against them, before two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, who convicted the said Malsters for the said fraudulent Practices, and fined them in a considerable Sum; but the said Malsters appealing to the then next Quarter-Sessions, this Deponent did order or direct the said *John Mitchell* to attend *Mr. Coxeter* of *Bampton* to advise with him as a Counsel in the said Matter, and to give him the said *Mr. Coxeter* two Guineas as a Fee for his said Advice; and this Deponent saith, That the said *Mitchell* (as he inform'd this Deponent) did accordingly go and Leave at the said *Mr. Coxeter's* House, some Papers relating to the said Matter, and also two Guineas for a Fee, which this Deponent believ'd the said *Mr. Coxeter* might have lawfully taken; this Deponent having been inform'd, that it is usual and Customary with other Councillors, who are also

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Commission of the Peace in other Counties:
 and this Deponent saith, that the said Mr. Cox-
 eter went to the then next Quarter-Sessions at
 Oxford aforesaid, and came to this Deponent at the
 Tower-de Luce Inn in Oxford aforesaid, before he
 would go into the Court, and told this Deponent,
 that the said Mr. Mitchell had left at his House
 some, Papers and two Guineas for a Fee, as sent
 by this Deponent, which the said Mr. Coxeter told
 this Deponent he could not take, the Matter in
 Controversy being to come before him in Judg-
 ment; or to that Effect; and therefore he gave
 this Deponent the said Fee back again; and altho'
 this Deponent very much press'd the said Mr.
 Coxeter to accept the said two Guineas, yet the
 said Mr. Coxeter utterly refus'd the same, and
 return'd the said two Guineas to him this De-
 ponent, saying, it was against his Conscience to
 take it, and that the Practice of other Persons
 was no Warrant for him to do the like, or to that
 or the like Effect.

F. Powel.

*Furat' 5to Die Octobris 1713,
 coram me, John Dewe.*

After the reading of the aforesaid Certificate
 and Affidavit, Mr. Lenthal having, as he thought,
 a considerable Number of his Friends prepar'd,
 mov'd the Court that it might be put to the
 Vote, whether some Censure should not be pass'd
 upon Mr. Coxeter by Order of that Court, and
 be presented to the *Custos Rotulorum*, but his Mo-
 tion was over-ruled, and no Order was made or
 Direction given at that Time (being the *Wednes-*
day Morning of the Sessions) by the Court, while
 Mr. Coxeter was present, and above Twenty
 Justices upon the Bench, some of whom spoke

very handsomely in Behalf of *Mr. Coxeter*, declaring that they saw no Crime in what *Mr. Coxeter* had done, and That that Court had Nothing to do therewith. But *Mr. Lenthall* being restless under the Disappointment, procur'd a very small Number of his prepar'd Friends to attend the Chairman to the Court early in the Afternoon, and then, in *Mr. Coxeter's* Absence, and when there were not above four or five Justices present (as *Mr. Coxeter* is inform'd) made the like Motion as he had done in the Morning, and thereby carry'd his Point; and a Minute was taken by the Deputy Clerk of the Peace; and tho' *Mr. Coxeter* himself and most of the other Justices who were present in the Morning, came immediately after into the Court; yet this tricking Motion was hush'd up, and no publick mention made of it in the Court; so that *Mr. Coxeter* had no Opportunity to take the Sense of the Bench upon such a foul Piece of Practice, who having over-rul'd the Motion in the Morning, would doubtless have caus'd the Minute, so surreptitiously taken in the Afternoon, to have been expung'd, not only as it was an apparent Injustice to *Mr. Coxeter*, but also as it was a direct Affront to all the other Justices who had reject'd and over rul'd the same Motion in the Morning; and no doubt, had they been present, would have been of the same Opinion in the Afternoon; but the Point to be gain'd was some Order that might Misrepresent and blacken *Mr. Coxeter*, and he had the Misfortune to have to do with one who had not Honour enough to engage him to deal above Board; and therefore in Pursuance of what he had so done against *Mr. Coxeter* by Surprize, the following Order was cook'd up, by Contrivance with the Deputy Clerk of the Peace, or some other Person concern'd therein, viz.

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Oxon ff.

*Sessio Sti. Mich' Archang' Anno Reginae
Dnae Nrae Annae, nunc Reginae Magnae
Britanniae, Sc. Duodecimo.*

WHereas at the last Sessions held for the said County, the Overseers of the Parish of *Milton* in the said County, did make Oath, that *Richard Coxeter*, Esq; one of the Justices of the Peace for the said County, did advise them touching a Settlement which was then depending, and was determin'd at the next Sessions following, and what Proof was to be made therein, And that he did receive a Fee for his said Advice: And whereas an Order was made at the said last Sessions, whereby the said Mr. *Coxeter* was desir'd to attend this Sessions and answer the Premises: And whereas, the said Mr. *Coxeter* being now present, hath admitted that he did receive the said Fee, and did advise touching the Proof to be made concerning the said Settlement, and Proof being made that Mr. *Coxeter* was present at the next Sessions, when the said Appeal was determin'd, and Mr. *Coxeter* not positively denying the same, this Court doth desire the Chair-man to represent the Behaviour of the said Mr. *Coxeter* in the Premises, to the Right Honourable *Montague*, Earl of *Abingdon*, the *Custos Rotulorum* of this County, and humbly intreat his Lordship to lay the same before the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor of *Great Britain*.

Per Cur' Clerke.

Upon the Face of this Order, several Things are observable: First it is recited, that at the last Sessions, the Overseers of *Milton* made Oath, that Mr. *Coxeter* did advise them touching a Settlement

tlement which was then depending, &c. and what Proof was to be made therein, and that he receiv'd a Fee for his Advice: This Recital is false, First, as to the Persons making Oath, for it was only one, viz. *Simon Wakefield*. Secondly, It is false as to the Substance of that Oath, and this appears as it contradicts the former Order, which says, it was upon an Appeal from a Rate made, and this says, it was touching a Settlement, &c. Thirdly, by the former Order, Mr. *Coxeter* was not desir'd to attend to answer this, but the former Charge, which had no Foundation to support it. Fourthly, 'Tis false that Mr. *Coxeter* was present when this Order was made, for when he was present in the Morning, the Motion was over rul'd, and rejected, but this was done in the Afternoon, in his and almost all the other Justices Absence, as is before mention'd; nor when he was present did he admit that he advised concerning any Settlement, but concerning the Proof to be made of the Execution of the Certificate as aforesaid. Fifthly, No Proof was made, that Mr. *Coxeter* was present when either of the different Appeals mentioned in the several Orders were determin'd, but a Certificate was produc'd by Mr. *Lenthall*, sign'd by Mr. *Brookes* to the same Effect with that before mention'd, which he gave to Mr. *Coxeter* with this Addition, *That he thought Mr. Coxeter was present when that Matter was determin'd*. And Mr. *Coxeter* said, that that Matter being so long since pass'd, and of no Concern to him, he did not remember whether he was there or not: Something however was to be said, how false or inconsistent soever it was, upon which, some Order might be founded to give an Handle against Mr. *Coxeter*. When Mr. *Coxeter* gave an Answer to the foregoing Representations, and presented the same to the Right Honourable the

Lord

Lord Chancellor, he was wholly a Stranger
 to this Clandestine and surreptitious Order, for
 which Reason, he could not in those Papers give
 so full an Answer to this Charge, as he hath since
 been enabled to do, from the Notice he receiv'd
 the first of *January* last, from the Clerk of the
 Peace, that he heard such an Order was made and
 presented to the Right Honourable the Earl of
Abingdon; but he said he had never seen it, nor
 did he know how it was obtain'd, for that he said
 he was present in the Morning when the whole
 Matter was debated; and that then it was de-
 termin'd by the Bench, by over-ruling *Mr. Len-
 bal's* Motion, and that whatever was done, was
 by his Deputy in the Afternoon, and in his Ab-
 sence. It was there also said by *Mr. Lenthal*,
 that it was *Mr. Coxeter's* constant Practice to
 take Bribes, or to that Effect; but this was throw-
 ing Dirt, without the least Pretence to Proof, un-
 less his *ipse dixit* could find greater Credit among
 those who know him. Had there been any Foun-
 dation for such a Charge, *Mr. Coxeter* doubts not
 but his and his Parties Diligence would have sap-
 ped it, and discover'd the Mine; and the Print
 of some corrupt or unwary Steps might have been
 traced, before any Man could arrive at the
 Height of Wickedness all at once (which he e-
 steems Corruption in a Magistrate to be) for,
Nemo repente fit turpissimus. When any Man is in-
 clin'd to be corrupted by Bribery, he is false to
 that Principle, if he does not in such Case take
 the largest Bribe that is offer'd him, especially
 when he has Reason to believe he can do it with
 the most Secrecy. This will appear to be *Mr.
 Coxeter's* Case; for the larger Fee which he re-
 fus'd, as appears by *Mr. Powell's* Affidavit, was of-
 fer'd him by such a Friend, on whom he could
 have fully depended, that it never could have
 been

been mention'd to his Prejudice; and therefore his Refusal of it could only proceed from a Principle of Conscience, and makes it very improbable, that he would in another Case, take a less Fee from Officers of a Parish, Strangers to him, and in whom he could have no Confidence, who must necessarily charge it in their Accounts, and consequently 'twas certain it must be made publick, if he had apprehended it had not been very lawful to take that Fee as a Counsel. He dares appeal to the Experience of such who profess the Law, and such especially who are Stewards and keep Courts, whether in the Course of their Practice and Business, they have not had frequent Opportunities of injuring their Clients and Lords of Mannors for whom they have been concern'd, if they would accept such Gratuities as have been offer'd, or encourage the Hints that have been given them, especially by the Tenants in such Mannors, to procure them Leases or Grants of Estates upon easy Terms, to the Prejudice of the Owners, and in Breach of the Trust reposed in such Stewards. But secure in his own Innocence, *Mr. Coxeter* defies his Enemies and all others to shew, that in any one Instance, during above Twenty five Years Profession of the Law, he has ever taken any such Gratuity whatsoever, or ever was guilty of any such Breach of Trust, or ever procur'd or endeavour'd to procure any such Leases or Grants of Estates for any Tenant where he has been concern'd, which have in the least been to the Prejudice of the Landlord, or under the real Value of the Thing granted, as far as *Mr. Coxeter* was inform'd; and if in such Cases, where he had no Obligation of an Oath to restrain him, he would not be corrupt, certainly 'tis very irrational to believe, that he would, as a Justice of the

Peace,

peace, break through a positive Oath for the
 sake of a Fee of Ten Shillings. Mr. Coxeter has
 been the longer in his Defence upon this Head,
 because his Adversaries have thought it so ma-
 terial as to form a Complaint against him at the
 Quarter Sessions; but as he believes, he stood
 clear of any Crime, in the Opinion of every
 unprejudic'd Person upon the Bench; so he doubts
 not but he also shall be absolv'd in the Judgment
 of every unbiass'd Reader; and that these Pro-
 ceedings will naturally put all that are Strangers
 to both Parties, upon the Enquiry, what Sort of
 Men (especially) these Reformers are; for let
 their Actions be never so unaccountable, they
 will not be new or surprizing to their Neigh-
 bours: It is to be presum'd, that after so much
 Noise and Bustle, they would palm themselves
 upon the World for Persons of the strictest
 Justice, Honour and Integrity; Men that hate
 the Thoughts of Injustice and Corruption so much
 in themselves, that they would prosecute it
 to the utmost in all others; (for certainly 'tis
 all Policy in such, whose Houses are made of
 Glass, to begin to throw Stones) Were this the
 Case, Mr. Coxeter would think himself placed in
 the happiest Neighbourhood in the World, and
 would rejoice in their Endeavours to reform such
 Errors as they could discover in him; but if
 these Gentlemen act quite the Reverse of this,
 and if it can be prov'd beyond Contradiction,
 that one of the most forward of these worthy
 Reformers has, for five or six Years last past,
 receiv'd a Bribe of five Pounds *per Annum*, from
 a certain Parish in the Neighbourhood, for a
 particular Service he did them as a Magistrate
 and Commissioner of the Land Tax in the Year
 1708, tho' thereby he oppress'd several other
 neighbouring Parishes: Then the Mask will be
 pull'd

pull'd off, the Cheat will be detested, and it must be manifest to the World, that *Mr. Coxeter* has been prosecuted, meerly because he has refus'd to join in abusing his Neighbours, in the Instance before mention'd, and because he could not run their Lengths in many other Matters; and it will be evident, that his Accusers would not stick at any, even the basest and most unworthy Methods of obtaining their Ends against him, that the red hot Passion and intemperate Malice of two or three Persons (who act as if they design'd to be a Reproach to human Nature) might be gratify'd. *Mr. Coxeter* well knows some of the Steps his Adversaries have lately taken, to endeavour very unjustly to abuse and oppress him; and he doubts not their kind Intentions towards him for the future. If (without making it themselves) they can find he has been guilty of any one unjust Oppressive or illegal Action, he will be oblig'd to them for a Christian-like Discovery; that they may put it in his Power to make a just Reparation to the Person injur'd; which, *Mr. Coxeter*, as a necessary Part of Repentance, would rejoice to do. If they cannot; with great Justice he expects from them an Acknowledgment of their Injuriousness towards him, in so basely, falsely and maliciously traducing him; and he hopes he is endued with so much Christianity, as heartily to forgive, when he sees any Signs of Repentance. He has already laid open some, and is able to demonstrate a few more of his Adversaries Mistakes (for he would not willingly give them an harder Name) to chalk out the Way before them, and advises them likewise to make that Restitution to the Persons they have injur'd, as would more become them, than any Action of their Lives that hitherto *Mr. Coxeter* has been acquainted

with.

with. If the Complaint against him, had proceeded from any Principle in them founded upon Vertue and Christianity, and from a Desire of working a Reformation in *Mr. Coxeter*, he is perswaded it would have appear'd in a quite different View than what it did, and he is sure they will not then delay to take that Advice, tho' it is given by him; but if it flow'd from a Principle of Prejudice and Hatred towards *Mr. Coxeter's* Person, with a Desire of exposing, not amending him; then *Mr. Coxeter* fears his Charity will scarce be prevalent enough to guard him against imputing it to a Principle founded on Malice.

Mr. Coxeter is further represented as a Man of great Malice, Prejudice and Partiality, especially towards *Mr. Frederick*, as a Justice of the Peace, &c. In answer to which, *Mr. Coxeter* submits his own Actions to unprejudic'd Judgments; And believes, that whosoever shall read this Narrative and consider it impartially, will think that *Mr. Coxeter* has not treated *Mr. Frederick* rudely or unbecoming a Gentleman, but rather like a Friend than an Enemy, that was inclin'd to shew any Malice or Prejudice towards him. If *Mr. Coxeter* was any Way partial, it was in *Mr. Frederick's* Favour, considering *Mr. Frederick's* Insolent Behaviour. *Mr. Coxeter* therefore craves Leave to lay open some Facts (besides those before mention'd) which possibly may turn those Qualities upon his Adversary, which *Mr. Coxeter* hopes he has no Title to; for it may be observ'd that *Mr. Coxeter* has not been the Aggressor in any of the Matters aforesaid, but, with Relation to himself, has always been on the defensive Part; and as a Justice of the Peace, he has, he hopes, not exceeded his Duty; his Misfortune has been, that when his Adversaries have run themselves into Difficulties, the Persons abused have

have come to him for Justice, for doing which, he is now accused as an Oppressor.

That *Mr. Coxeter* may give some Instances to whom Malice may be imputed, besides the foregoing Accounts.

First, Some Years since, a Journey-man Barber having used *Mr. Frederick's* Name (as he thought too familiarly, and coming afterwards to wait on *Mr. Frederick* at his House, he thought fit to break his Head: The Barber went to *Mr. Dewe's* whose Lady gave him a Plaister: Soon after, *Mr. Frederick* meeting *Mr. Dewe* in the Market-Place at *Bampton*, charg'd him with encouraging this Barber against him, and fell foul on *Mr. Dewe*, beat him, threw him down and tore his Cloaths for which base Action he was indicted by *Mr. Dewe*, who well knows this to be true, as also do many other Persons who were Eye Witnesses of this Insult.

Secondly, One *John Collingwood* of *Bampton*, having given some Offence to *Mr. Frederick* at a Cock-match, by only presuming to rejoice at the Probability of Victory on his Side, *Mr. Frederick* (who would not give the Winner Leave to laugh) presently struck a large lighted Candle in his Face; at which, *Collingwood*, provok'd, kick'd up his Heels, but the Company parted them: A Month after, *Mr. Frederick* meeting *Collingwood* in the Street, fell on him in a furious Manner, with foul Language (without Provocation) jostled against him, endeavouring to push him on before him; *Collingwood* observing, that he had his Sword with him, and knowing his Temper, would not go before, but kept close to him to prevent his doing him a Mischief, and walk'd in that manner until he came to a Neighbour's House whose

Door

which, Door was open ; into which he ran to avoid him ; Mr. Frederick presently drew his Sword and pursu'd him, but another Person meeting him in the Passage, took up the Bar of a Window, saying, he would beat out his Brains if he went further, and then he retir'd, but bears a Grudge to Collingwood ever since, as might appear by several Instances too long to repeat.

The foregoing Account, relating to Mr. Frederick's Dealings with me, the before named John Collingwood, I do attest to be true in every Particula, Witness my Hand the 16th Day of October, Anno Dom. 1713.

John Collingwood.

Thirdly, One Thing more is fit here to be mentioned, as an Evidence of the Honesty of Mr. Frederick's Principles, as well as of his good Behaviour, viz. he has lately driven a Trade of Malting in Bampton, and has usually employ'd one Edward Williams and some others, to buy Barley for him, Williams having bought ten Quarters of Barley for him of one Fowler, at sixteen Shillings and Sixpence a Quarter, abating one Shilling upon the whole Parcel, and the Market falling Sixpence a Quarter, before the Time appointed for Delivery of it ; after Fowler had provided it, pursuant to Agreement, Mr. Frederick refus'd it, saying, it was bought too dear, and that the Market was since fallen ; whereupon Fowler thinking himself ill us'd, said, That had it risen five Shillings a Quarter, yet he would have perform'd his Agreement ; but was never serv'd so knavish a Trick in his Life, or to that Effect ; which being told to Mr. Frederick, made him very angry with

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Fowler,

Fowler, and meditate Revenge. Some Time after, *Fowler* being in Company with one *Trew* Shoemaker, and many others; *Trew* began Quarrel with *Fowler*, and challeng'd him, and unbutton'd his Clothes to fight him; *Fowler* after much Provocation, threw a Glass at *Trew* which breaking on the Table, a Peice of it afterwards, by Accident, cut one of *Trew's* Fingers by his leaning or striking his Hand upon it, as is suppos'd; but they parted good Friends, as the Company thought: Two or three Days after Mr. *Frederick* hearing of it, sent for *Trew*, and advis'd him to go to a Chyrurgeon to make Cure of it; and got *Trew* and others to make Affidavits; upon which, he mov'd the Court of *Queen's-Bench* for an Information against *Fowler* who being a Renter, and unwilling to spend Money at Law, offer'd any reasonable Satisfaction to accommodate the Matter; and for that Purpose apply'd to *Trew*, telling him, the Prosecution would be chargeable to him as well as to *Fowler* to which, *Trew* answer'd, That he cared not for that, for he had a Friend to support him, and refus'd to agree without Mr. *Frederick's* Approbation; and after, in Mr. *Frederick's* Presence, and by his Instruction (as is believ'd) demanded thirty Pounds of *Fowler*, to agree; *Fowler* finding Mr. *Frederick* prosecuted the Matter, apply'd to him, who told *Fowler*, what he had said of him concerning the Barley, and said, if he had heard him say those Words, he would have fallen upon the said *Fowler*; and that if *Trew's* Case had been his, the said *Frederick's*, he would have had a great Sum of Money of him for Damages; *Fowler* told him, he could not have been his own Carver, or to that Purpose; Whereeto, Mr. *Frederick* reply'd, That then in Default thereof, he

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he said Mr. *Frederick* would have killed the said *Fowler*. Besides, what *Trew* said of his Friend that would support him, *Trew's* Wife being ask'd, how they could bear the Charge of such a Prosecution against *Fowler*, answer'd, That Mr. *Frederick* had told them, that if he did spend ten or twenty Pounds on their Account, what was that to them, or to that Effect; whereby it plainly appear'd, that Mr. *Frederick* maintain'd that Prosecution. Mr. *Frederick* having obtain'd a Rule for an Information against *Fowler*, upon three several *Affidavits* that he had dress'd up: *Fowler* himself, and four other Persons set forth the whole Matter by other *Affidavits*, which being offer'd to the Court, upon shewing Cause against Mr. *Frederick's* Rule, the same was set aside; and then Mr. *Frederick* caused *Fowler* to be indicted at *Oxon. Assizes*, and also brought an Action at Law against him for the same Fact; and no doubt but this was wholly at his own Charges, purely to gratify his Malice against *Fowler*; for *Trew* is a poor Fellow worth nothing, and utterly unable to bear such an Expense; besides, Mr. *Frederick* publicly appeared in managing this Matter, tho' it has not been usual with him to act as an Attorney, and tho' he could never conceive that *Trew* could repay him; and this is the more remarkable, because before this he seem'd an Enemy to *Trew*, and not long before, had severely beaten him in the Field; but now to gratify his Malice against *Fowler* by *Trew's* Means, he has hugged *Trew* as his Bosom Companion, whom before, he could not quietly endure to see. This whole Matter is set forth at large, in five several *Affidavits*, which were read in the Court of *Queen's Bench* on this Occasion, and are now to be seen in Mr. *Coxeter's*

Hands, as are also the Copies of Mr. Frederick's three Affidavits, which were all given to Mr. Coxeter by Mr. Fowler.

There are Abundance of other Instances to be given in *Bampton* and that Neighbourhood, where he is esteem'd by most Persons as one of a most inveterately malicious Nature; but not to mention Things of a lower Rank, such as Threatning a Man's Life (of which Sort many Instances might be given) Let one Instance where it was actually attempted, conclude.

Fourthly, One Mr. *Crutch* a Glover in *Oxford* being with a Gentleman of *Eusham* a Courting at *Bampton*, happen'd to lose one of their Dogs, and afterwards hearing that the Dog was at Mr. *Frederick's*, the Owner went to his House to see, and Mr. *Crutch* went with him; The Gentleman went into the Yard, and there found his Dog ty'd up; he unty'd him and brought him away, and Mr. *Crutch* stood only at the Gate: They staid in *Bampton* some Days and coursed, but Mr. *Frederick* made no Enquiry after the Dog. About six Months after, Mr. *Frederick* being at the *Bear-Inn* in *Oxford*, in the Dark of the Evening, Mr. *Crutch* pass'd through the Gate House, where Mr. *Frederick* stood unknown to *Crutch*; Mr. *Frederick* asked him if his Name was *Crutch*, which he owning, Mr. *Frederick* immediately drew his Sword on him, unarmed, and made a full Pass at his Body; he perceiving something shining (tho' it was dark) coming towards him, held up his Arm to save his Body, and was run through the Arm, for which, he has never yet had any Satisfaction; but when he afterwards at *Bampton* demanded some Recompence, Mr. *Frederick* told him

him he would give it if he would go with him to his House, which he did, and he brought out two Swords, and gave *Mr. Crutch* one, who (being a Man fearless of Danger) took it, ready to fight him; but *Mr. Frederick* took Care to have Company enough to carry him out of Danger, and so the Satisfaction ended. *Mr. Coxeter* is desirous for *Mr. Frederick's* Sake to let these suffice among a Multitude of other Instances to shew the Temper of that Man; of whom it is not so improbable but that he might so grossly abuse *Mr. Fenwick* without Provocation; and of whom 'tis to be hoped, that some Persons, who now seem so strenuously to espouse his Quarrels, will in Time (notwithstanding their at present unpolished Roughness) have the Sense to be ashamed as well as some others have had the Wisdom to forsake him. These and many more Instances of *Mr. Frederick's* Behaviour, being well known to *Mr. Coxeter*, gave him convincing Reasons to believe *Mr. Fenwick's* Information to be true; and fully satisfy'd him, that *Mr. Frederick's*, not *Mr. Fenwick's*, Complaint, was malicious, and contriv'd on Purpose to screen himself and his Confederates.

The Foregoing Relation, concerning Mr. Frederick's attempting the Life of Mr. Crutch in the Manner before mention'd, was read to the said Mr. Crutch, at Oxford, this first Day of January, 1713, and the said Mr. Crutch then acknowledg'd the same to be true in every Particular; but desired to be excus'd from signing it, lest it might disoblige Mr. Wroughton's Family who were his Customers. Witness my Hand,

Francis Coxeter.
Mr.

Mr. Coxeter having been some Time since informed, That some Accusations were formed against him, and subscribed by several Persons who were Strangers to him in a Manner, and some wholly so, in Order to procure him to be removed out of the Commission of the Peace, as an Evil Doer; thought fit to take a Testimonial of his Life and Conversation, from his nearest Neighbours, who were most likely to know his Character: A Copy whereof is here underwritten: the Original is sign'd by above Five hundred and fifty Persons; and the Number might have been more than doubled, if it had been requested, in other Parts of the Hundred of *Bampton*. Among these, are Four Gentlemen who were in the Commission of the Peace, within the same Hundred; Ten Clergymen, many Gentlemen, and others of good Estates, and most of the Freeholders and Tradesmen in the Neighbourhood: And he may challenge any of his Accusers to prove wherein he has in any Instance deviated wilfully from the Character therein given of him, which he Hopes he shall always be careful to maintain.

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WHEREAS it is Reported, That some Certificate, Testimonial, or other Writing hath been lately drawn up and subscrib'd, by several Persons living remote from the Hundred of *Bampton*, in the County of *Oxon*, as well as by some few in the same Hundred; importing some Accusations against *Richard Coxeter* of *Bampton* aforesaid, Esq; whereby (as we are inform'd) the said *Mr. Coxeter* is represented as an ill Man in his Life and Conversation, and also as unjust, partial, oppressive or otherwise irregular in his Behaviour, as a Justice of the Peace for the said County of *Oxon*, or to that Effect. Therefore we, whose Names are hereunto subscrib'd, being Inhabitants within the said Parish, and Hundred of *Bampton*, who well know the said *Mr. Coxeter*; do hereby certify whom it may concern, That to the Knowledge of most of us, and the Belief of all of us whose Names are subscrib'd; the said *Mr. Coxeter* hath lived in the said Parish of *Bampton*, ever since the Month of *November* 1696 or thereabout; and that during all the Time aforesaid, the said *Mr. Coxeter* hath behav'd himself in such Manner as becomes a Christian, with all civil, honest, sober and exemplary Deportment towards all Men; being very just in his Dealings, sober in his Life and Conversation, and very peaceable among all his Neighbours; having never, to our Knowledge or Belief, had any Quarrel or Controversy with any Man upon his own Account, or otherwise than in Vindication of himself, when he hath been first unjustly attack'd, or in Defence of the Rights and just Properties of the said Parish of *Bampton*; and

and we do verily believe, that he cannot justly be accused of doing any Wrong to any Man whatsoever, in his Estate, Reputation, or otherwise howsoever: And we do further Certify, That since he hath acted in the said County in Commission of the Peace, All his Proceedings, by Virtue of the said Commission have been to the General Satisfaction of the whole Neighbourhood; he having demean'd himself towards all Men with such unblemished Justice, Mercy, Moderation and Civility, That we do verily believe, notwithstanding many Injuries have been done to him by others, it cannot be prov'd by the worst of his Enemies, that he hath ever been guilty of any one arbitrary, oppressive, illegal, partial, or unchristian-like Action; but on the contrary, he hath behav'd himself with that Care and Caution in Conformity to the Laws of this Kingdom, under which he acted, that his said Actions have been so much to the Satisfaction of the Country, that even such who have had the Misfortune to offend against those Laws, have never had any Reason to complain that they have been ill used, but rather to be well satisfy'd with the merciful Justice inflicted on them. And we do in our Consciences believe, that whosoever hath certify'd any thing against him to the contrary, are either such who have themselves been injurious to him, and therefore would justify themselves by still persisting in those Injuries against him; or else are such, who are wholly Strangers to him, and take the Character his Adversaries give him upon Trust; or are so little acquainted with him as not to be

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be competent Judges of his inoffensive Behaviour towards all Men, and have therefore been induced to join with those they think the strongest Party unjustly to blacken him whom they cannot justly accuse. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands the Fifth Day of February, *Anno Dom.* 1712.

The Testimonial, before mentioned, was not procured because Mr. *Coxeter* thought it would add any thing to his Character, or confirm his his Neighbours in the good opinion they had of him before, or that he needed any Testimony of his behaviour at home; but because his Adversaries thought fit, First to accuse and misrepresent him, under the hands of several Persons, and had taken all opportunities to asperse him abroad among such as knew nothing of him before, therefore to undeceive such as they had so prejudiced against him, Mr. *Coxeter* at the importunity of his Friends consented thereto.

By means of the various parts of the foregoing Sheets, and of the Printing Mr. *Fredericks* Representations at length, which was done that it might not be pretended (as it certainly would) that any material Charge against Mr. *Coxeter* was concealed or unanswered, this Narrative has been drawn into too great a length; but 'tis hoped every Candid reader will pardon that fault; especially when without laying open the whole transactions, with their Circumstances, how trifling soever they may seem. It could not so well appear which of the contending Parties have truth to support their cause; but by shewing so many Certificates, Orders, Letters, Affidavits and Attestations, (the truth of all which is easy to be traced out) it cannot reasonably be supposed but that every one (not resolved to be prejudiced in favour of either Party) must see

see which has been ill used, or hath had the most reason to complain, especially if it be considered that two of the Representations are Mr. Frederick's bare assertions, without any Proof, and the most material evidence given of the third is again contradicted even by the Confession of the Person that is pretended to have witnessed it, and that Confession attested by many Credible Witnesses as appears by their Certificate Page 66.



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